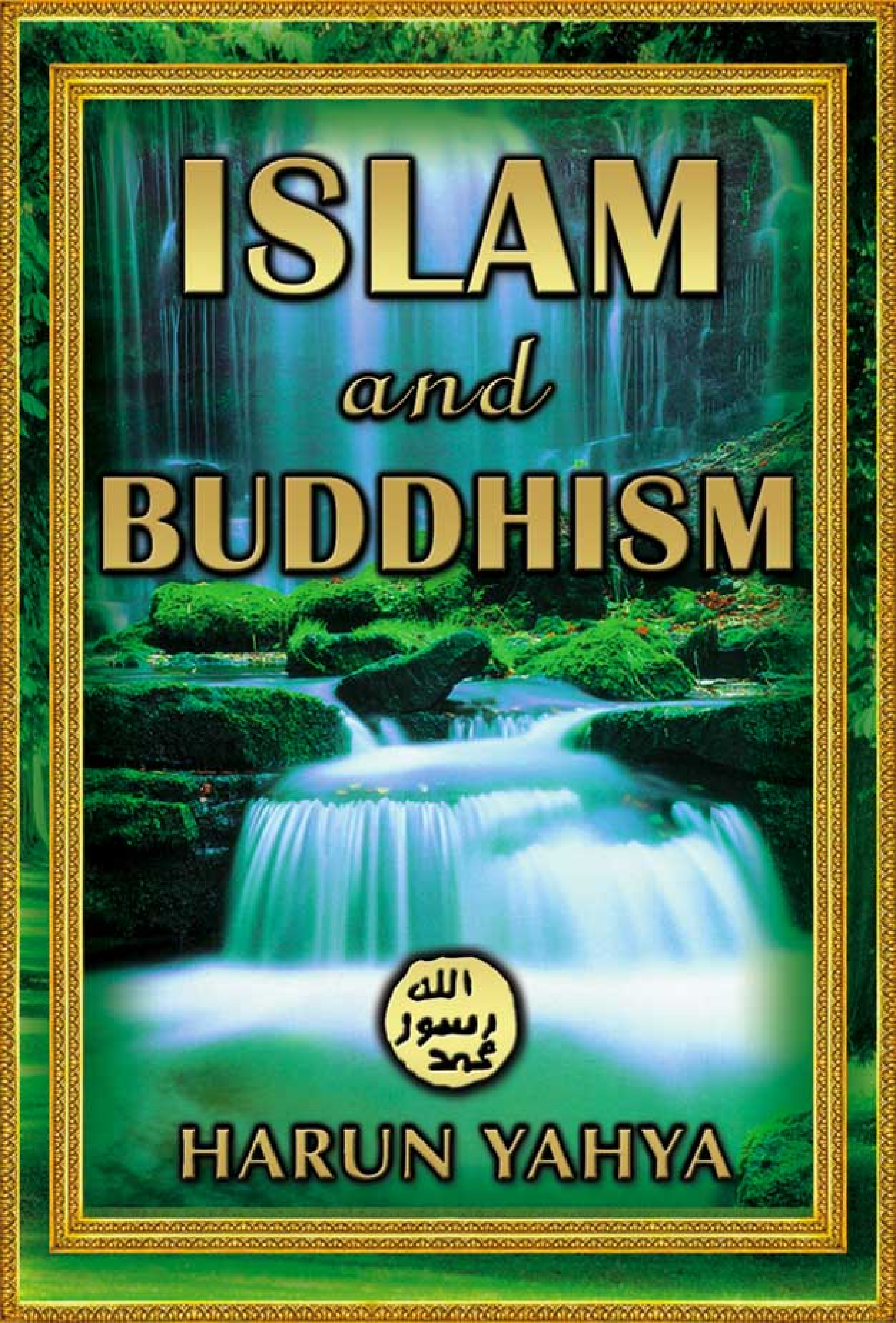

ISLAM
and
BUDDHISM
الله
رسول
محمد
HARUN YAHYA

Throughout the world, but especially in America and Europe, some individuals have been intrigued by Buddhism, spurred on mostly by the superstitious, secret, and awesome qualities they perceive in this religion. Generally, those who adopt Buddhism do so not because they believe in the logic of its philosophy, but because they're attracted by its "mystical" atmosphere, drawn to this superstition because it is presented to them as far more different and awesome than any other philosophy they encounter in their normal lives. Books and films about Buddhism depict Buddha as the source of a great mystery. Likewise, Buddhist priests are presented as possessors of secret, arcane knowledge. They fascinate Westerners with their exotic robes, shaved heads, style of worship, elaborate ceremonies, dwelling places, meditation, yoga and other such strange practices.

This book examines Buddhism's superstitious character in the light of the Qur'an and lets you see clearly this superstitious religion's more perverse aspects. When we consider Buddhism's appearance, its scriptures, general beliefs, style of worship in the light of the Qur'an, we begin to see that its basic philosophy is founded on very deviant doctrines. Indeed, its worship contains strange practices leading its devotees to worship idols of stone and clay.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



The author, who writes under the pen-name Harun Yahya, was born in Ankara in 1956. He studied arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University, and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, the author has published many books on political, faith-related and scientific issues. His main focus has been the refutation of Darwinism and materialism, two modern myths presented under a scientific guise. Harun Yahya's books appeal to all kinds of readers, Muslims and non-Muslims alike, regardless of their age, race, or nationality, for they focus on one objective: to broaden the readers' perspective by encouraging them to think about a number of critical issues, such as the existence of God and His unity, and to display the decrepit foundations and perverted works of godless systems.

In the Name of God,
Most Gracious, Most Merciful

TO THE READER

A special chapter is assigned to the collapse of the theory of evolution because this theory constitutes the basis of all anti-spiritual philosophies. Since Darwinism rejects the fact of creation—and therefore, God's Existence—over the last 140 years it has caused many people to abandon their faith or fall into doubt. It is therefore an imperative service, a very important duty to show everyone that this theory is a deception. Since some readers may find the chance to read only one of our book, we think it appropriate to devote a chapter to summarize this subject.

All the author's books explain faith-related issues in light of Qur'anic verses, and invite readers to learn God's words and to live by them. All the subjects concerning God's verses are explained so as to leave no doubt or room for questions in the reader's mind. The books' sincere, plain, and fluent style ensure that everyone of every age and from every social group can easily understand them. Thanks to their effective, lucid narrative, they can be read at a one sitting. Even those who rigorously reject spirituality are influenced by the facts these books document and cannot refute the truthfulness of their contents.

This and all the other books by the author can be read individually, or discussed in a group. Readers eager to profit from the books will find discussion very useful, letting them relate their reflections and experiences to one another.

In addition, it will be a great service to Islam to contribute to the publication and reading of these books, written solely for the pleasure of God. The author's books are all extremely convincing. For this reason, to communicate true religion to others, one of the most effective methods is encouraging them to read these books.

We hope the reader will look through the reviews of his other books at the back of this book. His rich source material on faith-related issues is very useful, and a pleasure to read.

In these books, unlike some other books, you will not find the author's personal views, explanations based on dubious sources, styles that are unobservant of the respect and reverence due to sacred subjects, nor hopeless, pessimistic arguments that create doubts in the mind and deviations in the heart.

ISLAM and BUDDHISM

Harun Yahya

May 2003

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Now writing under the pen-name of HARUN YAHYA, he was born in Ankara in 1956. Having completed his primary and secondary education in Ankara, he studied arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, he has published many books on political, scientific, and faith-related issues. Harun Yahya is well-known as the author of important works disclosing the imposture of evolutionists, their invalid claims, and the dark liaisons between Darwinism and such bloody ideologies as fascism and communism.

His pen-name is a composite of the names *Harun* (Aaron) and *Yahya* (John), in memory of the two esteemed Prophets who fought against their people's lack of faith. The Prophet's seal on the his books' covers is symbolic and is linked to the their contents. It represents the Qur'an (the final scripture) and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), last of the prophets. Under the guidance of the Qur'an and the Sunnah (teachings of the Prophet), the author makes it his purpose to disprove each fundamental tenet of godless ideologies and to have the "last word," so as to completely silence the objections raised against religion. He uses the seal of the final Prophet, who attained ultimate wisdom and moral perfection, as a sign of his intention to offer the last word.

All of Harun Yahya's works share one single goal: to convey the Qur' an's message, encourage readers to consider basic faith-related issues such as God's Existence and Unity and the hereafter; and to expose godless systems' feeble foundations and perverted ideologies.

Harun Yahya enjoys a wide readership in many countries, from India to America, England to Indonesia, Poland to Bosnia, and Spain to Brazil. Some of his books are available in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Urdu, Arabic, Albanian, Russian, Serbo-Croat (Bosnian), Polish, Malay, Uygur Turkish, and Indonesian.

Greatly appreciated all around the world, these works have been instrumental in many people recovering faith in God and gaining deeper insights into their faith. His books' wisdom and sincerity, together with a distinct style that's easy to understand, directly affect anyone who reads them. Those who seriously con-

sider these books, can no longer advocate atheism or any other perverted ideology or materialistic philosophy, since these books are characterized by rapid effectiveness, definite results, and irrefutability. Even if they continue to do so, it will be only a sentimental insistence, since these books refute such ideologies from their very foundations. All contemporary movements of denial are now ideologically defeated, thanks to the books written by Harun Yahya.

This is no doubt a result of the Qur'an's wisdom and lucidity. The author modestly intends to serve as a means in humanity's search for God's right path. No material gain is sought in the publication of these works.

Those who encourage others to read these books, to open their minds and hearts and guide them to become more devoted servants of God, render an invaluable service.

Meanwhile, it would only be a waste of time and energy to propagate other books that create confusion in people's minds, lead them into ideological chaos, and that clearly have no strong and precise effects in removing the doubts in people's hearts, as also verified from previous experience. It is impossible for books devised to emphasize the author's literary power rather than the noble goal of saving people from loss of faith, to have such a great effect. Those who doubt this can readily see that the sole aim of Harun Yahya's books is to overcome disbelief and to disseminate the Qur'an's moral values. The success and impact of this service are manifested in the readers' conviction.

One point should be kept in mind: The main reason for the continuing cruelty, conflict, and other ordeals endured by the vast majority of people is the ideological prevalence of disbelief. This can be ended only with the ideological defeat of disbelief and by conveying the wonders of creation and Qur'anic morality so that people can live by it. Considering the state of the world today, leading into a downward spiral of violence, corruption and conflict, clearly this service must be provided speedily and effectively, or it may be too late.

In this effort, the books of Harun Yahya assume a leading role. By the will of God, these books will be a means through which people in the twentyfirst century will attain the peace, justice, and happiness promised in the Qur'an.

ISLAM and BUDDHISM

HARUN YAHYA

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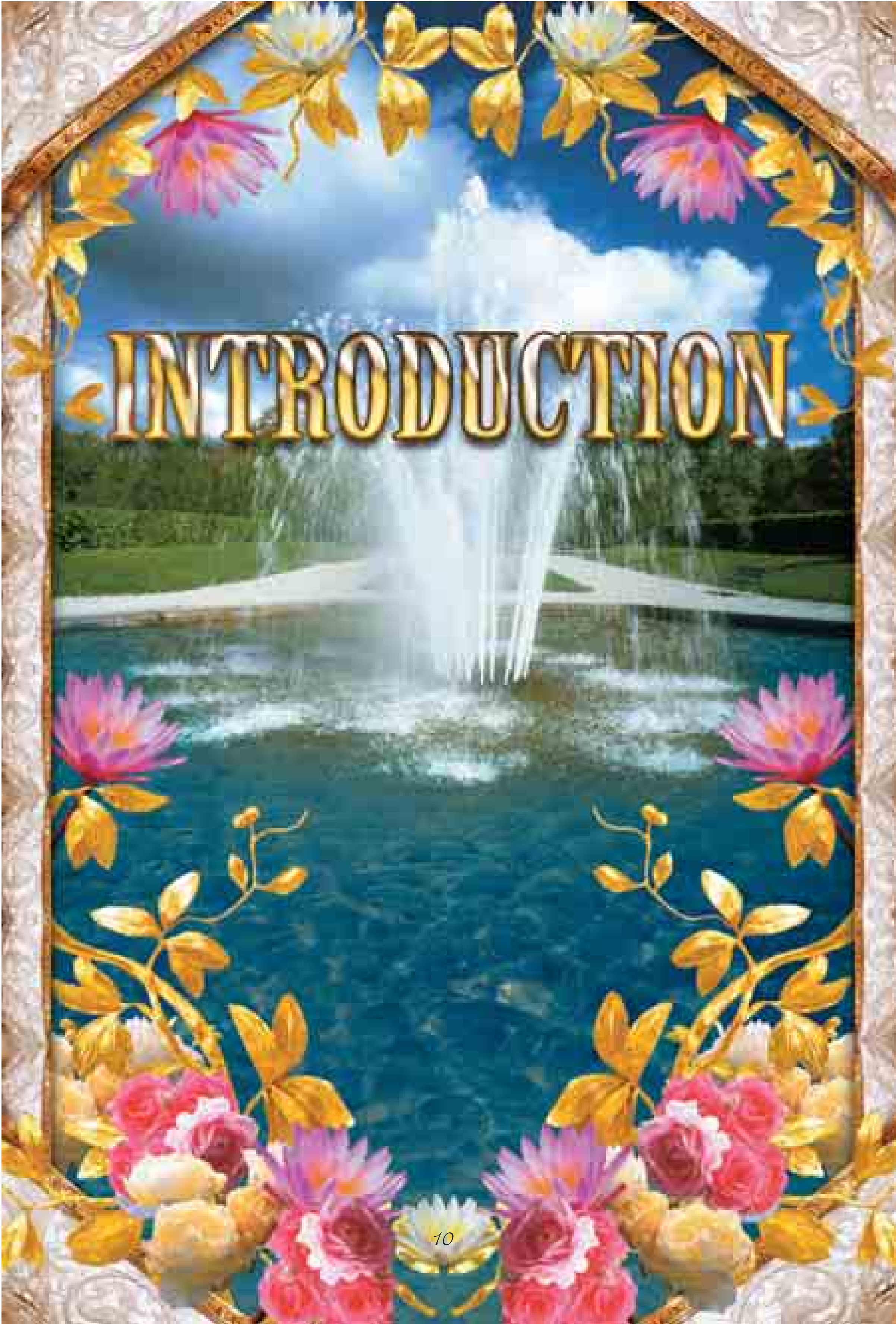
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ISLAM
and
BUDDHISM

Harun Yahya

Introduction

The religion with God is Islam…
(Qur’an, 3: 19)



INTRODUCTION

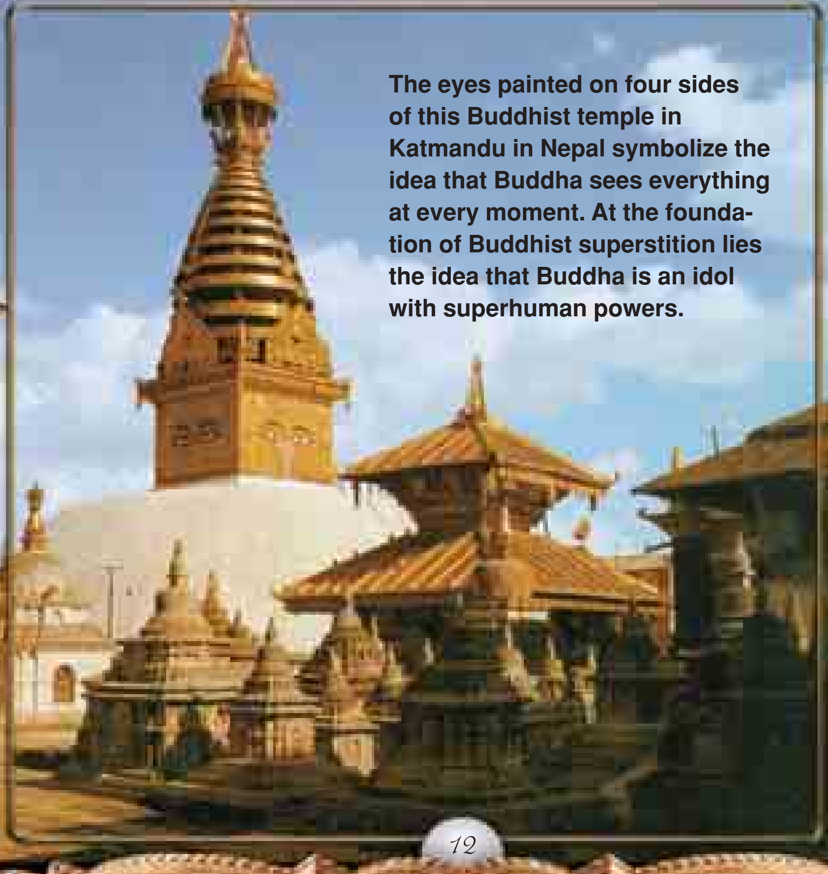
Many people become excited at the idea of becoming "different" or more "original." In almost every society since the dawn of history, some individuals have tried to stand out and draw attention to themselves by their life style, clothing, hairstyles, or distinctive way of speaking. They've managed to stir up public reaction and attract interest at the same time.

In recent years, Western societies have seen the emergence of an unusual current that draws attention to itself by its rather strange life style. It's made up of individuals who want to attract attention by adopting Eastern culture, beliefs, and philosophies—of which the most important is Buddhism.

Throughout the world, but especially in America and Europe, some individuals have been intrigued by Buddhism, spurred on mostly by the superstitious, secret, and awesome qualities they perceive in this religion. Generally, those who adopt Buddhism do so not because they believe in the logic of its philosophy, but because they're attracted by its "mystical" atmosphere, drawn to this superstition because it is presented to them as far

more different and awesome than any other philosophy they encounter in their normal lives. For example, the story of how Buddhism came to be is related to them as a fantastic, mystic legend. Books and films about Buddhism depict Buddha as the source of a great mystery. Likewise, Buddhist priests are presented as possessors of secret, arcane knowledge. They fascinate Westerners with their exotic robes, shaved heads, style of worship, elaborate ceremonies, dwelling places, meditation, yoga and other such strange practices.

For these reasons, Buddhism is seized upon as an important tool by people who want to demonstrate that they are different from others in their society, and who want to project the image of having discovered of a valuable secret. If an ordinary person suddenly shaves his head one day, puts on a brightly-colored robe and begins to teach

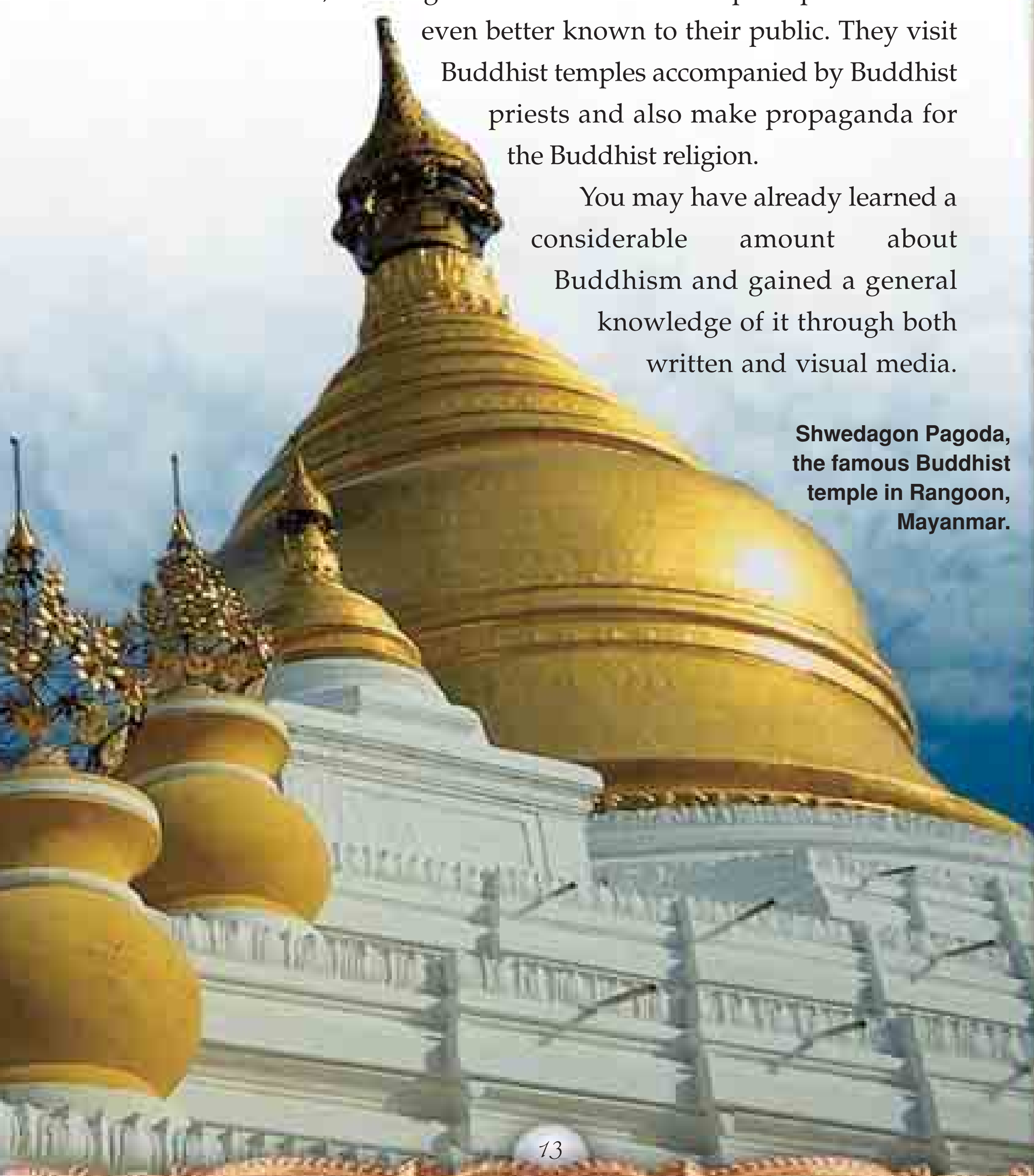


The eyes painted on four sides of this Buddhist temple in Katmandu in Nepal symbolize the idea that Buddha sees everything at every moment. At the foundation of Buddhist superstition lies the idea that Buddha is an idol with superhuman powers.

Buddhist doctrine using mystical words he never uttered before, he will certainly attract curious attention and be thought of as "original."

A number of celebrities have adopted Buddhism for similar purposes. They make speeches in Tibetan Buddhist robes to appear different from others, drawing attention to themselves perhaps to become even better known to their public. They visit Buddhist temples accompanied by Buddhist priests and also make propaganda for the Buddhist religion.

You may have already learned a considerable amount about Buddhism and gained a general knowledge of it through both written and visual media.

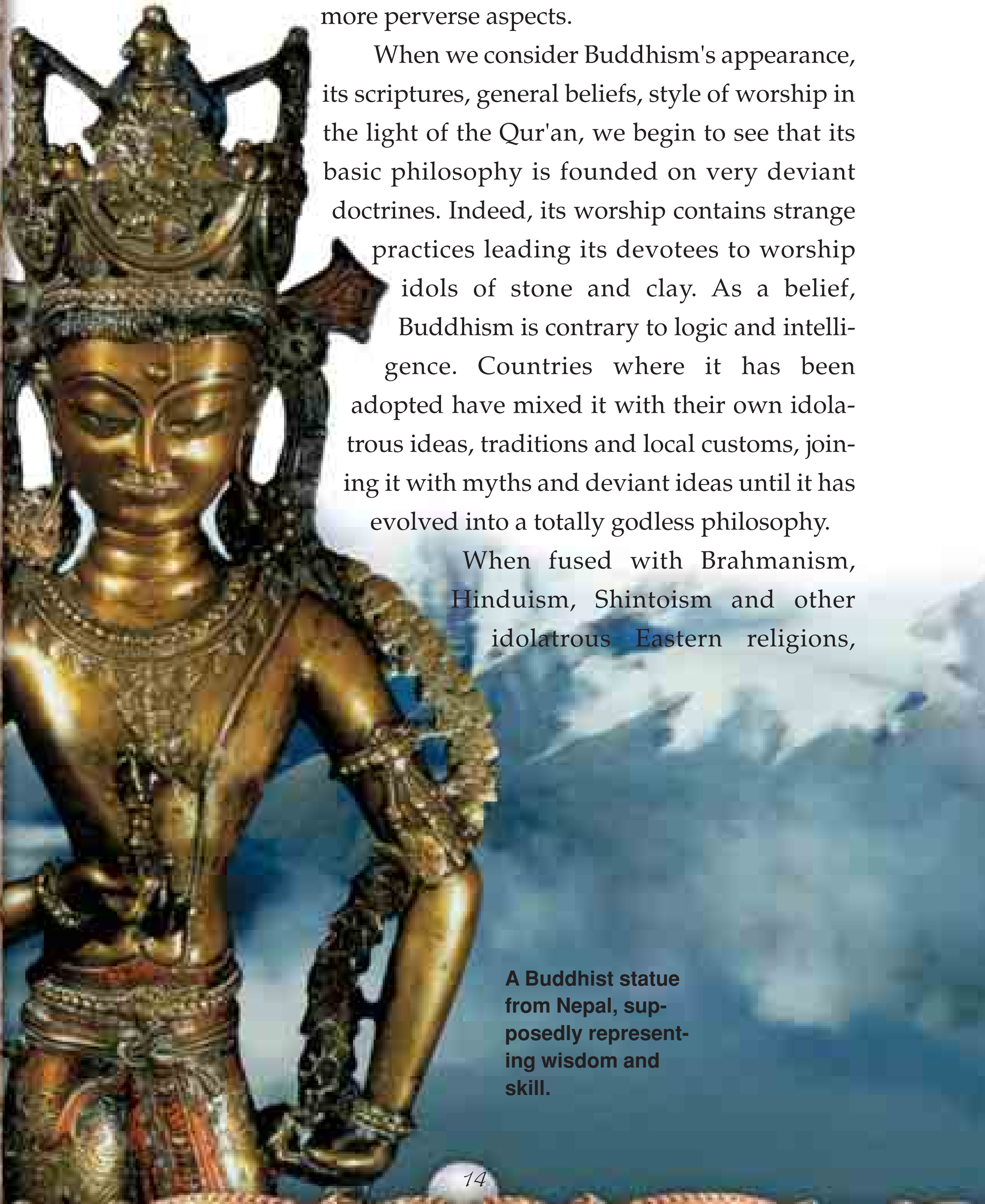


Shwedagon Pagoda, the famous Buddhist temple in Rangoon, Mayanmar.

In this book, we'll examine Buddhism's superstitious character in the light of the Qur'an and let you see clearly this superstitious religion's more perverse aspects.

When we consider Buddhism's appearance, its scriptures, general beliefs, style of worship in the light of the Qur'an, we begin to see that its basic philosophy is founded on very deviant doctrines. Indeed, its worship contains strange practices leading its devotees to worship idols of stone and clay. As a belief, Buddhism is contrary to logic and intelligence. Countries where it has been adopted have mixed it with their own idolatrous ideas, traditions and local customs, joining it with myths and deviant ideas until it has evolved into a totally godless philosophy.

When fused with Brahmanism, Hinduism, Shintoism and other idolatrous Eastern religions,



A Buddhist statue from Nepal, supposedly representing wisdom and skill.

Buddhism has assumed a much darker form. Those who adopt this religion not because they believe it, but because they're attracted by the "secrets" of the Far East or just to draw attention to themselves, should realize that Buddhism contains perverse doctrines that can lead them to deny God, associate handmade idols with Him and lead a life of superstition. To ignore Buddhism's mindless aspects and espouse it just to be trendy and go along with others will result in great loss.

Those who make propaganda on behalf of Buddhism often present it as a means of salvation. Those who long to escape from a materialist society's hard, disputatious culture— along with its worries, anxieties, quarrels, pitiless rivalry, selfishness and falsehoods—resort to Buddhism as the way to achieve peace of mind, security, tolerance and a fulfilling life. But Buddhism is not, as it is generally thought to be, a belief that brings contentment. On the contrary, those who are taken into Buddhism are often drawn into a deep pessimism. Even people with a considerable level of education and modern worldview will become individuals who see nothing wrong with begging with

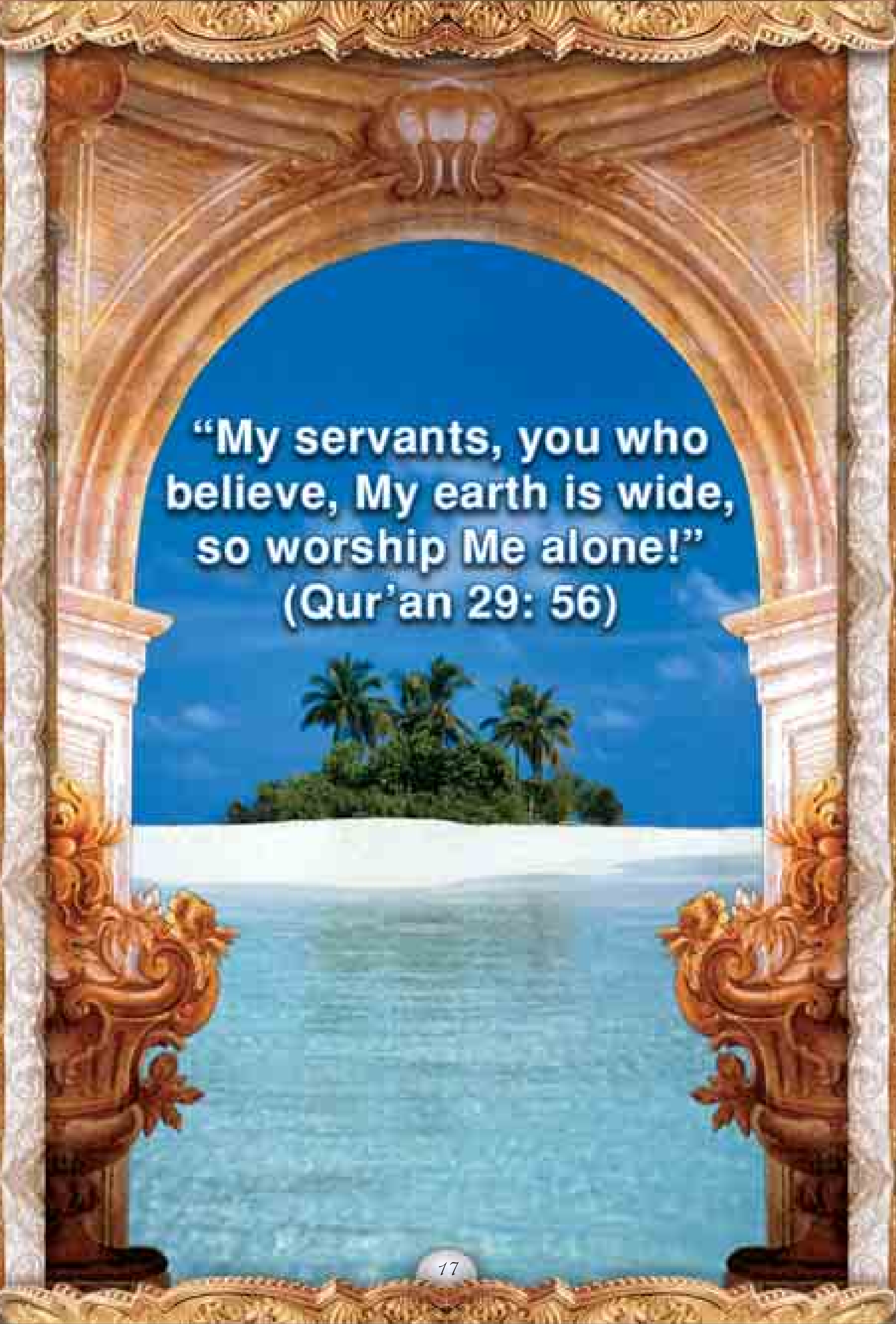
" . . . By His Words God wipes out the false and confirms the truth."
(Qur'an 42: 24)

their bowls in hand, who believe that in their next lives, human beings may be reborn as mice or cattle, and who expect help from idols carved from stone or cast in bronze. For these people, Buddhism's deviant beliefs inflict serious psychological damage. In countries where Buddhism is widespread, or in regions inhabited by many Buddhist priests, pessimism and gloominess are clearly prominent.

One basic reason for this is the laziness and indolence that Buddhism inculcates in its adherents. Because it lacks any faith in an eternal afterlife, Buddhism does not urge its devotees to be better or develop themselves, to beautify their environment, or to advance culturally. Islam always urges its adherents to seek out and apply themselves to what is better and more beautiful. Islam's dynamic moral teaching requires people to research and learn, to develop themselves and be useful to their communities. In one verse of the Qur'an (35: 28), God says that **"Only those of His servants with knowledge stand truly in awe of Him."**

The only way to find true happiness and contentment in this world—to escape every kind of pessimism, unhappiness, and pitiless evil—is for people to submit themselves to God, our Creator, and lead lives that will win His approval. Our Lord, the only sovereign of Earth and Heaven has announced that for all people the way of salvation is to embrace the Qur'an, sent down as a guide to the true path. In the Qur'an (14: 1), God affirms, **"… this is a Book We have sent down to you so that you can bring mankind from the darkness to the light, by the permission of their Lord, to the Path of the Almighty, the Praiseworthy."** Those who believe in idolatrous religious like Buddhism should realize that they have been misguided:

> **That is God, your Lord, the Truth, and what is there after truth except misguidance? So how have you been distracted? (Qur'an, 10: 32)**


"My servants, you who believe, My earth is wide, so worship Me alone!"
(Qur'an 29: 56)

BUDDHISM: AN IDOLATROUS RELIGION

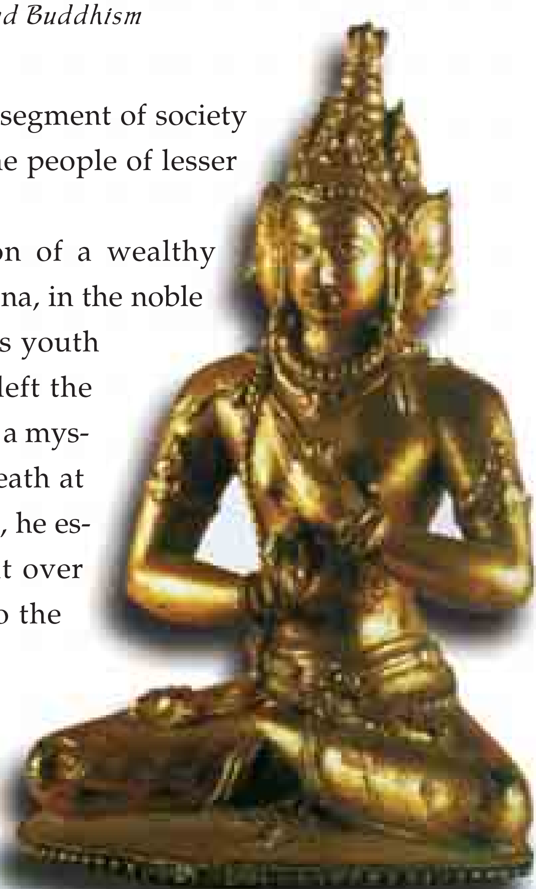
About 2500 years ago, Buddhism arose in northeast India and, in time, extended its influence throughout Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Kampuchea, China, Japan, Tibet, Mongolia, Manchuria, Korea, and Nepal. Today, it has about 330 million followers.

Definitions of Buddhism have always varied, along with how Buddhists understand life's meaning. For some, Buddhism is a religion; others regard it as a sect or school of philosophy. But from its view of life and all its practices, it is ultimately clear that the doctrine of Buddhism is idolatrous and superstitious. Since Buddhism is an atheist religion that lacks any belief in God, it also rejects the existence of angels, the eternal afterlife, Hell, and the Day of Judgment.

Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism, was born in the Indian city of Kapilavastu and lived between 563 and 483 B.C. At this time, India's dominant religion was Brahmanism, the religion of Aryan invaders. According to the Aryans' rigid and unbreachable caste system, all of society was divided into four groups, each of which in turn was divided into sub castes. Brahman

priests formed the very highest segment of society and they pitilessly oppressed the people of lesser status.

Gautama was born the son of a wealthy prince by the name of Suddhodana, in the noble Sakya family. After spending his youth in comfort and ease, Gautama left the palace at the age of 29 and began a mystic search that lasted until his death at the age of 80. During his lifetime, he established certain principles that over the course of time, evolved into the doctrine we now call Buddhism.



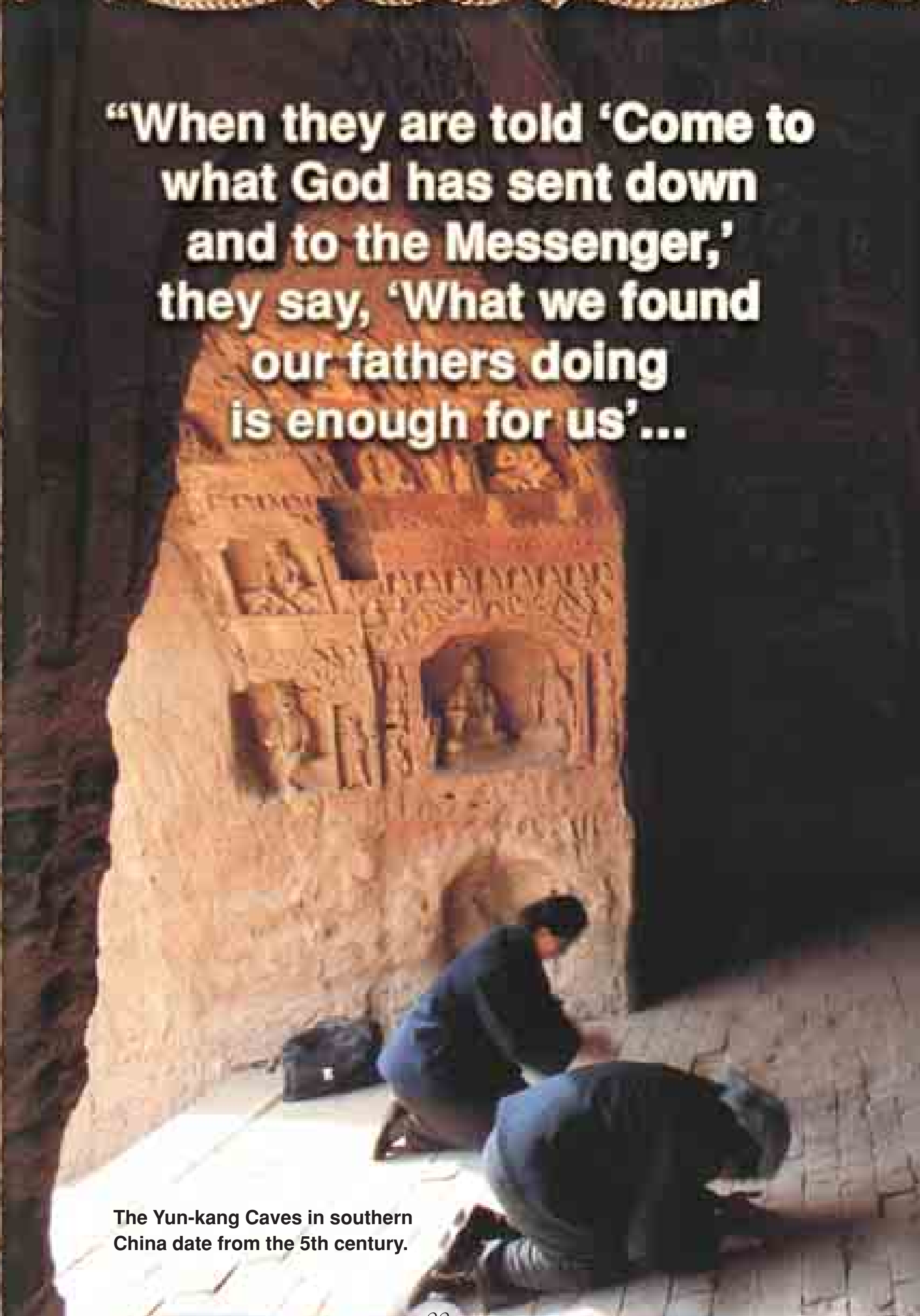
The statues of Buddha above and on the facing page are very important to Buddhists' pagan beliefs. This perverse religion leads people to accept the incredible idea that these statues can do them some good.



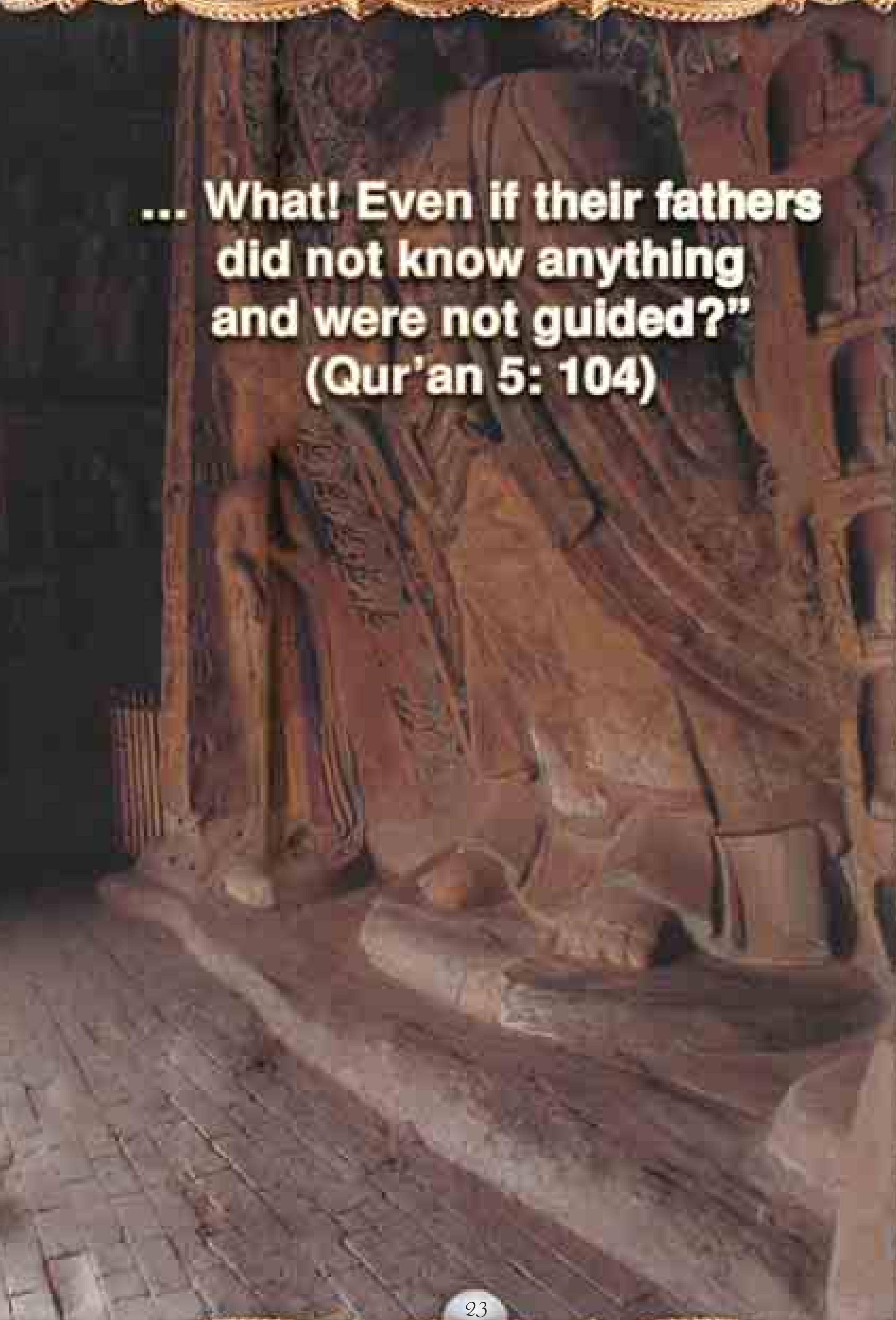
"You call me to reject God and to associate something with Him about which I have no knowledge, while I call you to the Almighty, the Endlessly Forgiving."
(Qur'an 40: 42)



“When they are told ‘Come to what God has sent down and to the Messenger,’ they say, ‘What we found our fathers doing is enough for us’...

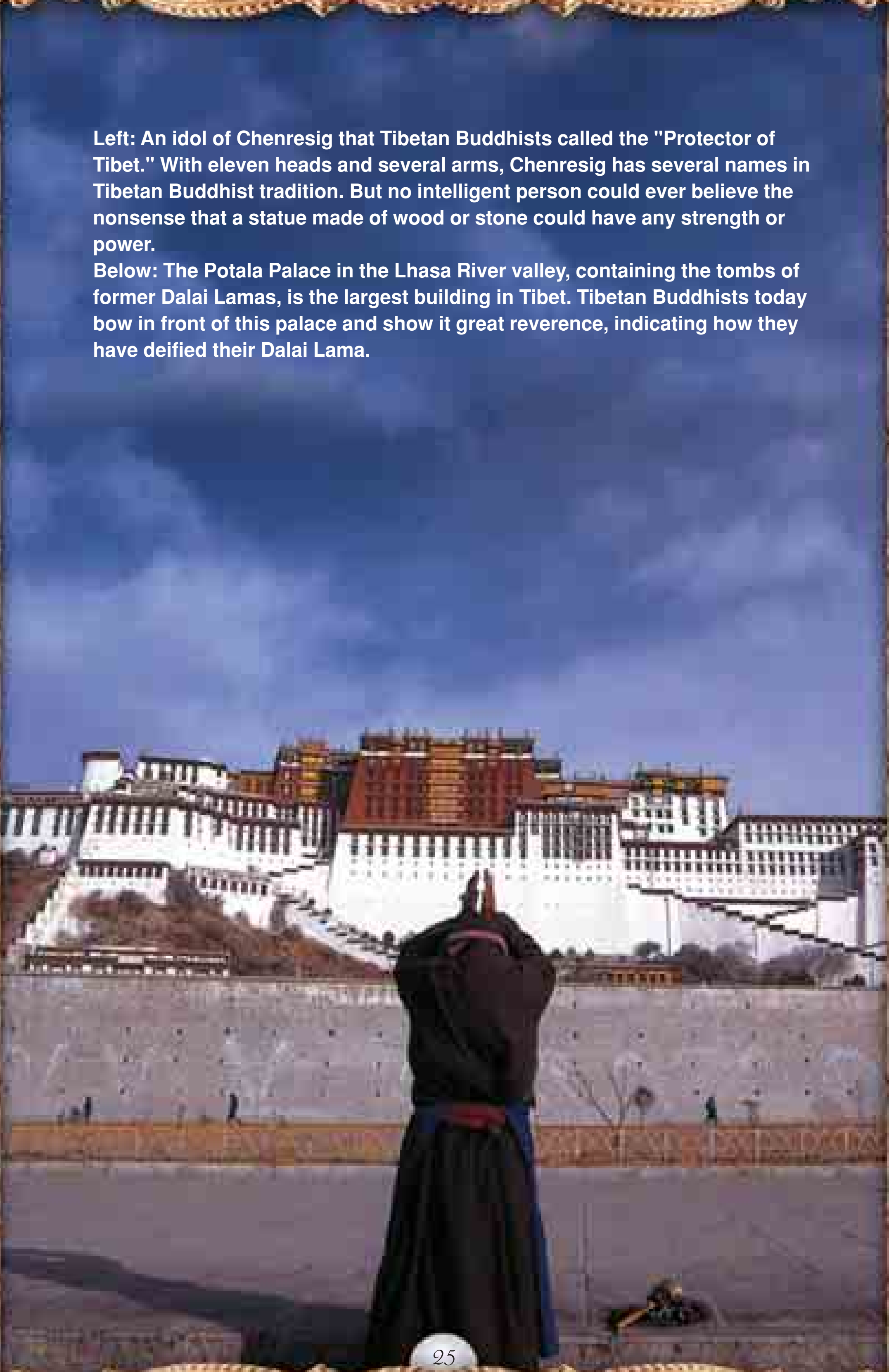


The Yun-kang Caves in southern China date from the 5th century.


... What! Even if their fathers
did not know anything
and were not guided?”
(Qur’an 5: 104)

"These [allegedly divine beings] are nothing but empty names which you have invented–you and your forefathers. God has sent down no authority for them..."
(Qur'an 53: 23)

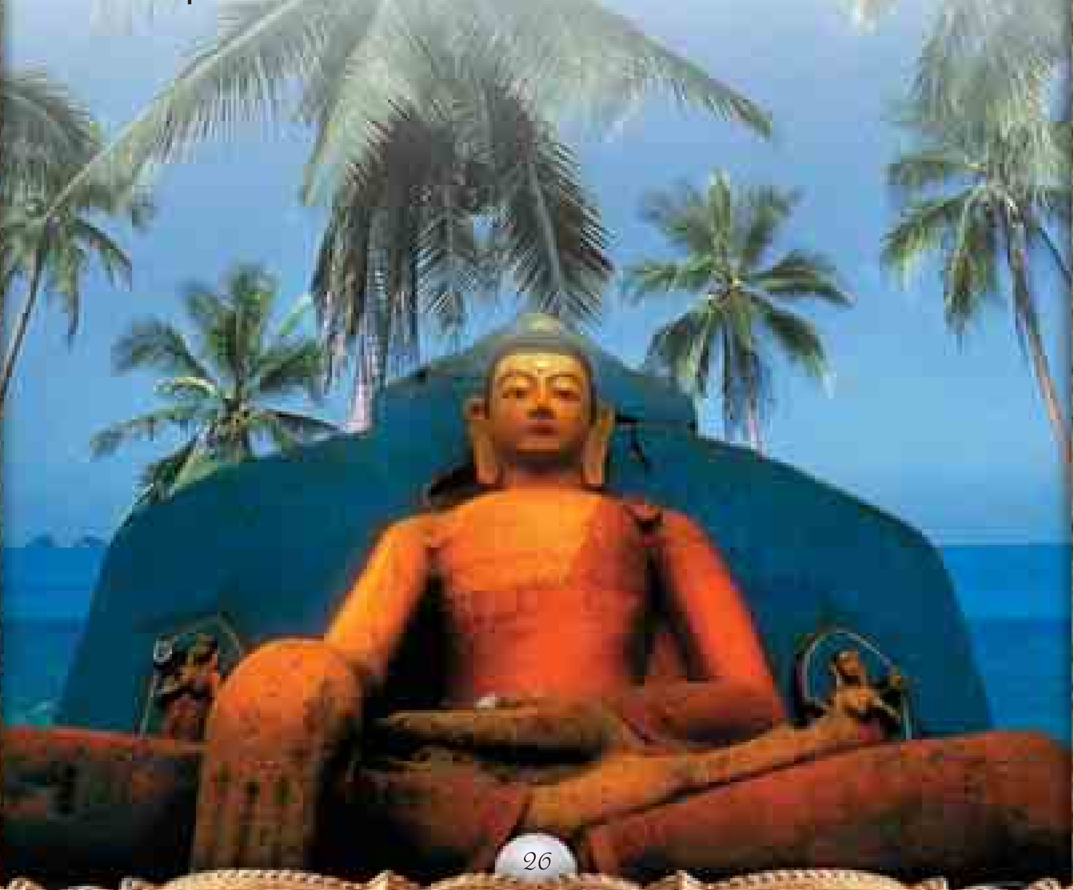


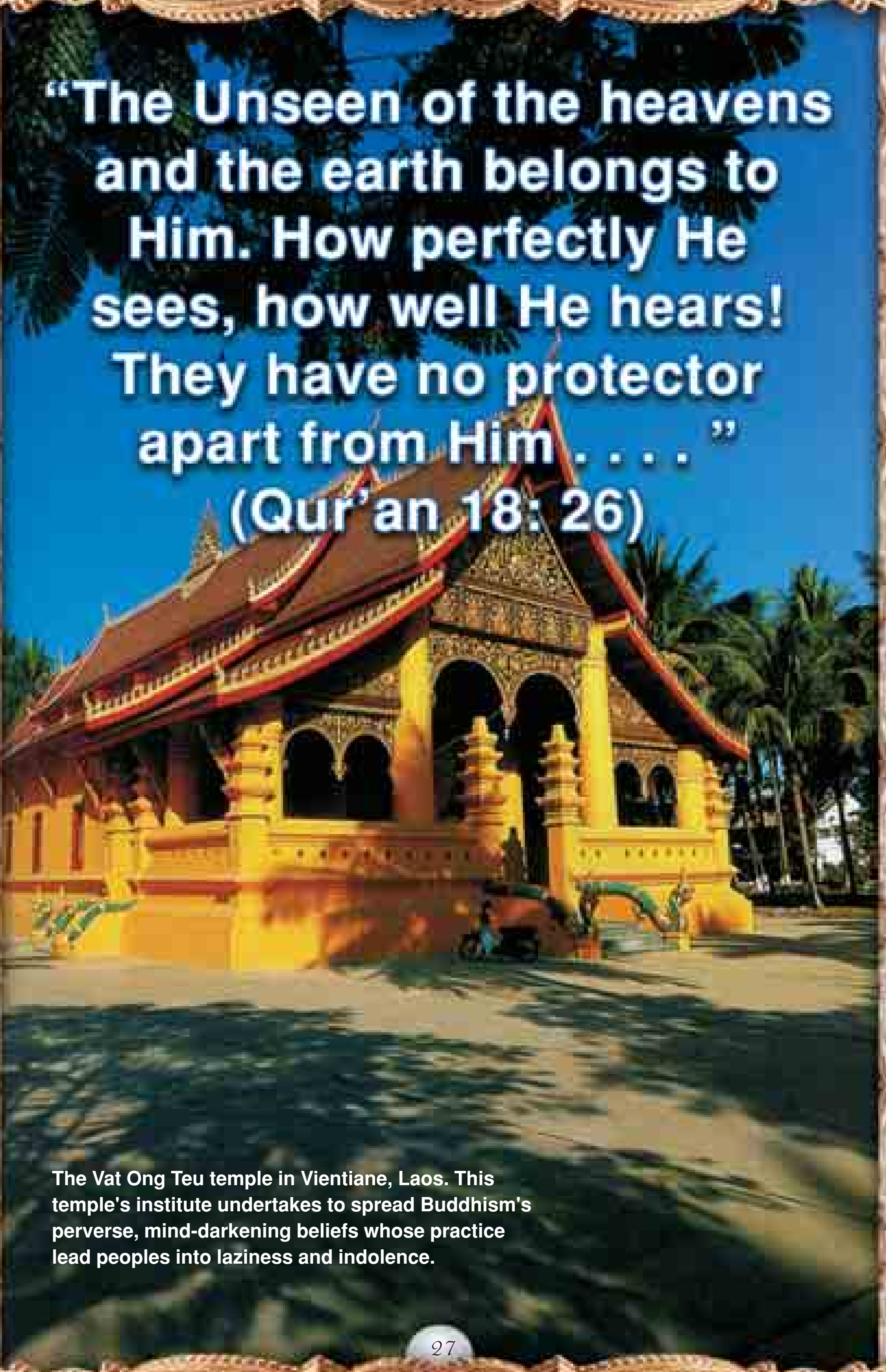


Left: An idol of Chenresig that Tibetan Buddhists called the "Protector of Tibet." With eleven heads and several arms, Chenresig has several names in Tibetan Buddhist tradition. But no intelligent person could ever believe the nonsense that a statue made of wood or stone could have any strength or power.
Below: The Potala Palace in the Lhasa River valley, containing the tombs of former Dalai Lamas, is the largest building in Tibet. Tibetan Buddhists today bow in front of this palace and show it great reverence, indicating how they have deified their Dalai Lama.

The word Buddha means "the awakened, or enlightened one," signifying the spiritual heights that Siddhartha Gautama is supposed to have attained. Those Buddhist teachings and texts that have come down to us do not date from the period in which he lived, but were written down between 300 and 400 years after his death. In the following pages of this book, we will examine these texts in detail and we will see that they contain false beliefs, practices that go beyond all logic and present Buddha perversely as an idol to be worshipped.

One of the giant statues Buddhists built in Katmandu to express their perverse beliefs.





"The Unseen of the heavens and the earth belongs to Him. How perfectly He sees, how well He hears! They have no protector apart from Him . . . ."
(Qur'an 18: 26)

The Vat Ong Teu temple in Vientiane, Laos. This temple's institute undertakes to spread Buddhism's perverse, mind-darkening beliefs whose practice lead peoples into laziness and indolence.

Those Who Associate Buddha with God

In its basic beliefs, philosophy and practices, this religion is idolatrous. Buddhists hold Buddha in a heightened sense of love, deep respect and fear, even accepting him as a god.

Although we have no documents from Buddha's time that suggest that he urged his followers to worship him; the Brahmans—who were already worshipping idols—quickly began to make statues of Siddhartha. And in time, those who nurtured an excessive love towards Buddha came to worship these idols and consider him a god.

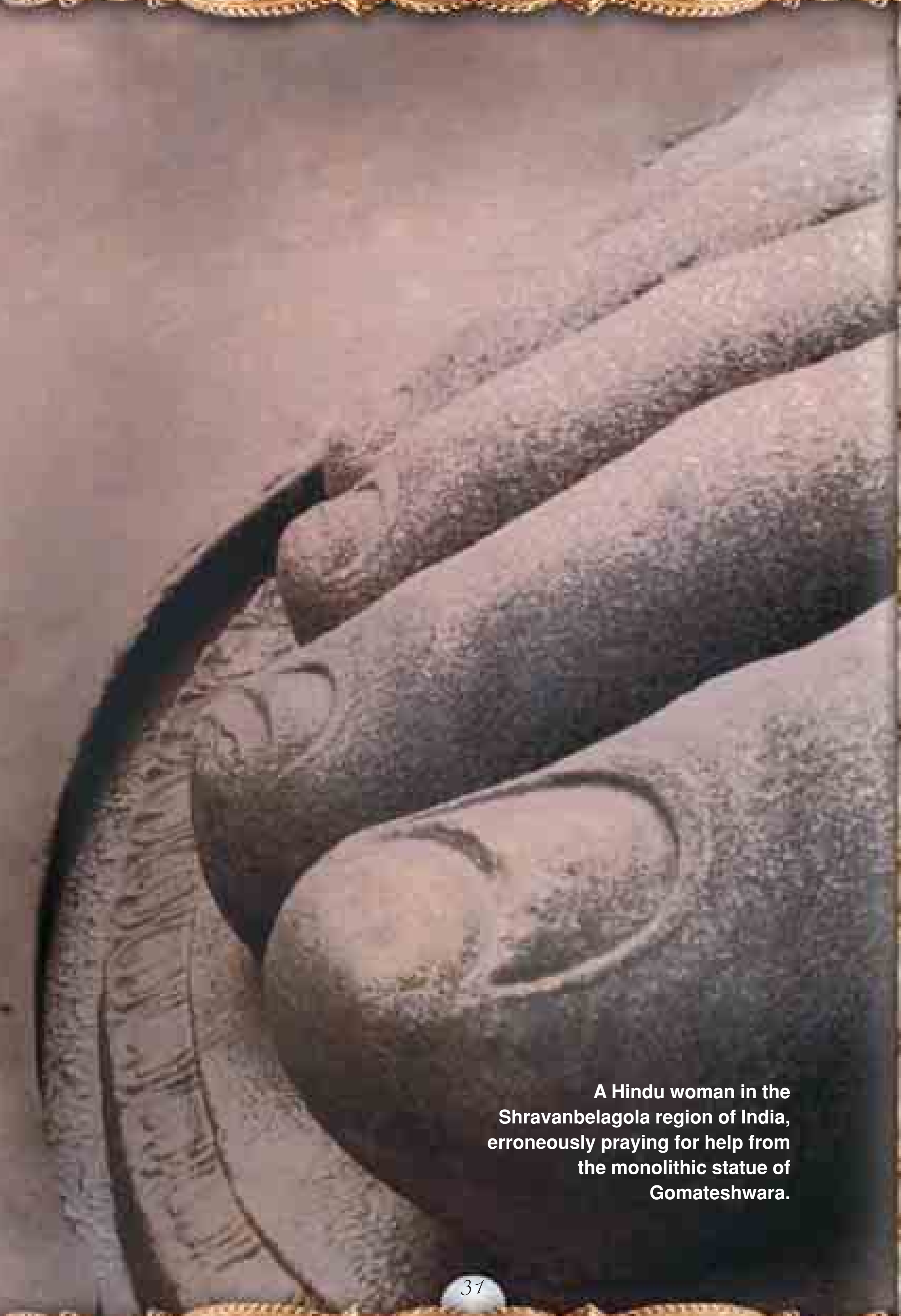


"... Those who do not believe follow falsehood, whereas those who believe follow the truth from their Lord." (Qur'an 47:3)



"Did they not see that it could not speak to them or guide them to any way? They adopted it, and so they were wrongdoers."
(Qur'an 7: 148)





A Hindu woman in the Shravanbelagola region of India, erroneously praying for help from the monolithic statue of Gomateshwara.

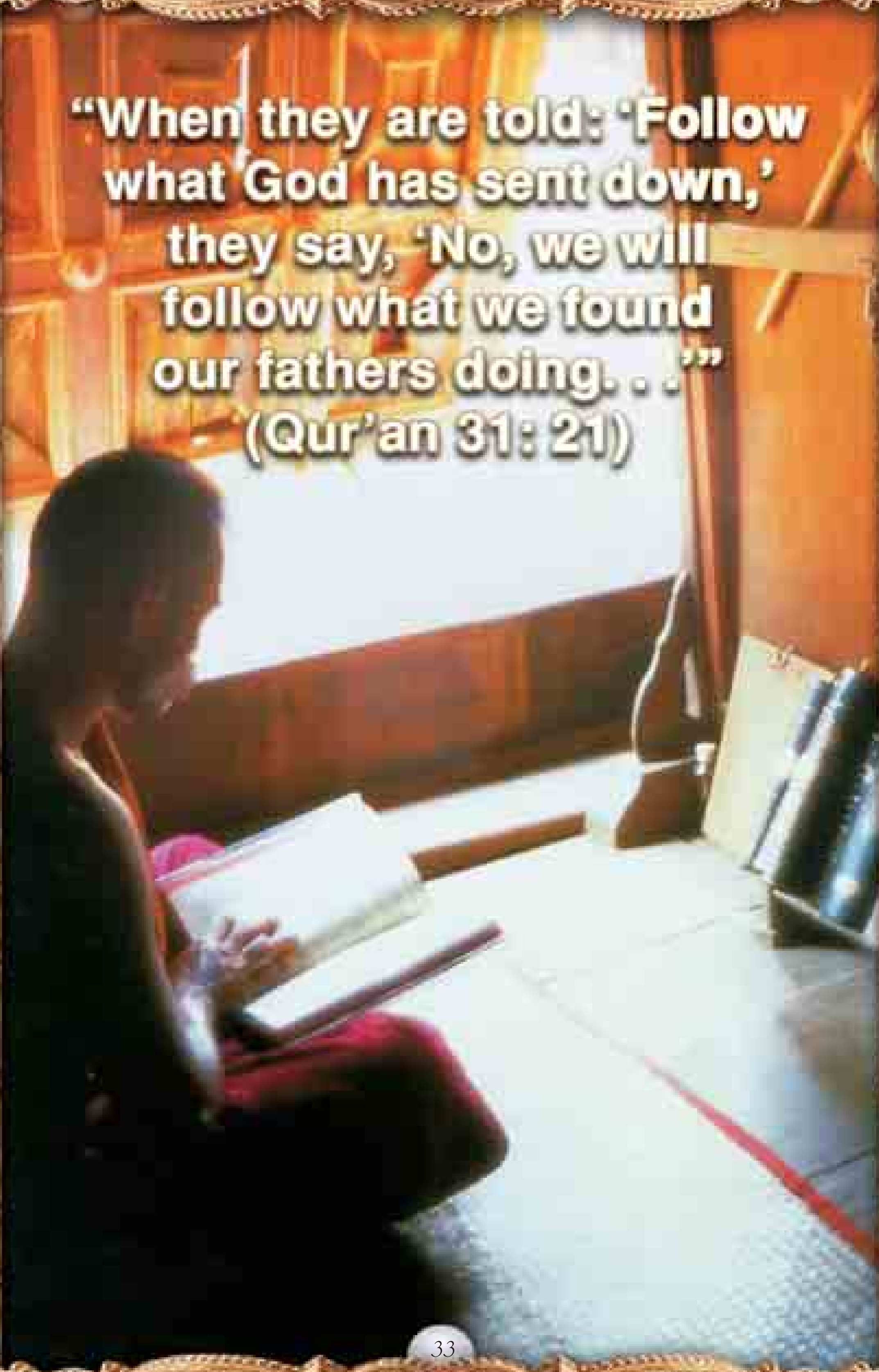


However, all religions based on God's revelations adhere to a monotheistic faith that recognizes Him as single and unique. In the Qur'an (22: 34), God states, **"Your God is One God, so submit to Him."** To deny the supremacy of God and worship the idols of an ordinary person, as the Buddhists do, is described in the Qur'an as to "associate something with God." In hundreds of places in the Qur'an, God reminds us that



Above: The Amida Buddha is one of the Buddhas that symbolizes limitless light, according to the superstitious Buddhist belief. This Buddha alone is enough to show how ignorant a religion Buddhism is.
Left: A Japanese statue of the Buddhist deity called Avalokiteshvara.

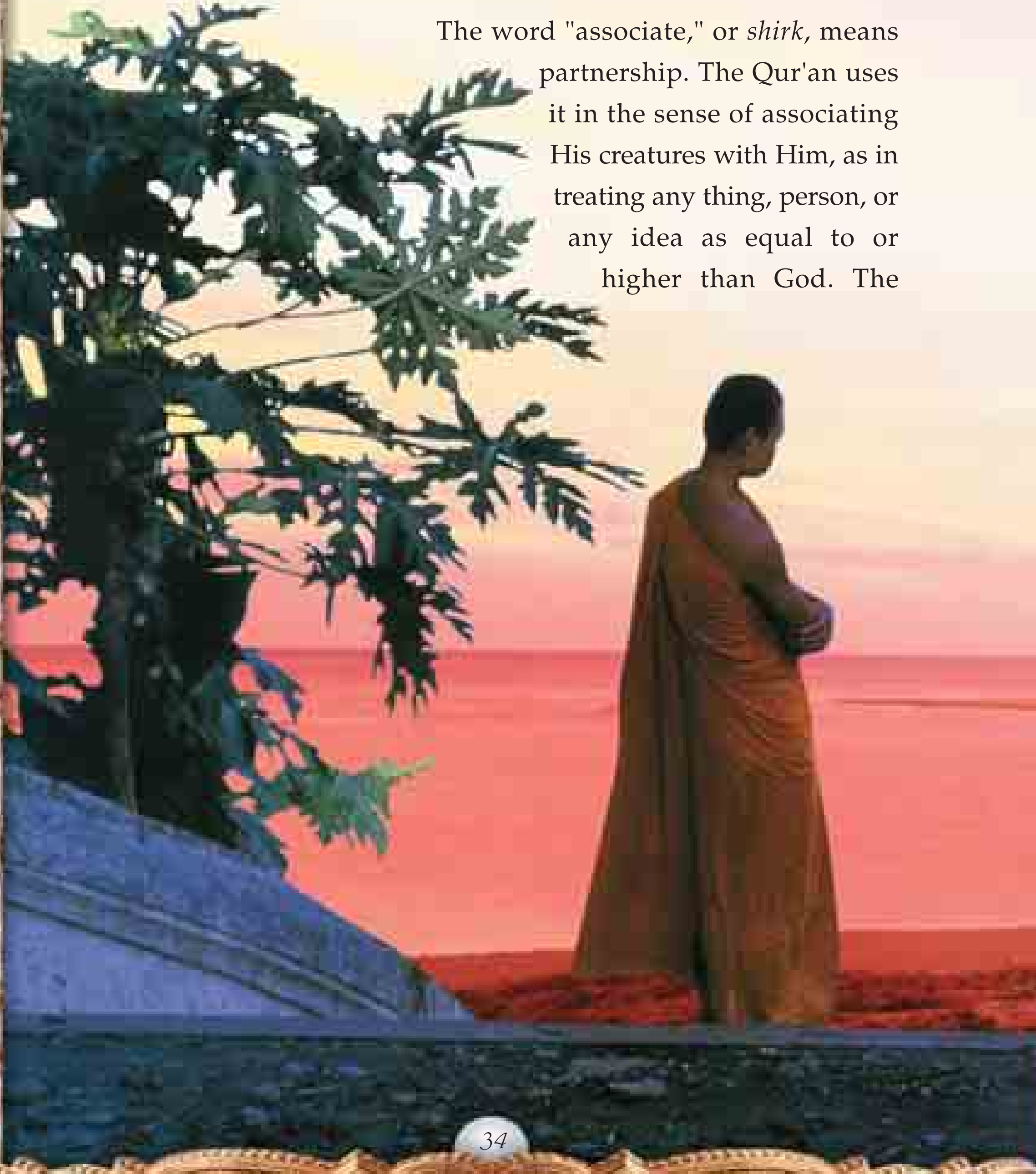
“When they are told: ‘Follow what God has sent down,’ they say, ‘No, we will follow what we found our fathers doing. . .’” (Qur’an 31: 21)



this "association" is a very serious sin. For example:

> **God does not forgive anything being associated with Him, but He forgives whoever He wills for anything other than that. Anyone who associates something with God has committed a terrible crime. (Qur'an, 4: 48)**

The word "associate," or *shirk*, means partnership. The Qur'an uses it in the sense of associating His creatures with Him, as in treating any thing, person, or any idea as equal to or higher than God. The



idolater reveres whatever image, relic, or object that he associates with God more highly than he does God Himself, directing toward it all his love and respect, interest and adoration. The Qur'an (15: 96; 17: 39; 51: 51) refers to this perverse way of thinking as "setting up another god together with God."

The Islamic religion is based on the belief in the oneness of God (*tawhid*). God often repeats the phrase *La ilahe illahu* ("there is no other God but He"), which is the first condition of faith. Therefore, the most basic meaning of *shirk* is deviating from this truth into the mistaken idea that there are other beings besides God who possess "power and might." In the Qur'an, our Lord makes Himself known by describing His attributes and tells us in many verses in the Qur'an that there is no other god but He. In verse 59: 22-24, God reveals His sublime names in these words:

> **He is God—there is no god but Him. He is the Knower of the Unseen and the Visible. He is the All-Merciful, the Most Merciful.**
>
> **He is God—there is no god but Him. He is the King, the Most Pure, the Perfect Peace, the Trustworthy, the Safeguarder, the Almighty, the Compeller, the Supremely Great. Glory be to God above all they associate with Him.**



He is God—the Creator, the Maker, the Giver of Form. To Him belong the Most Beautiful Names. Everything in the heavens and earth glorifies Him. He is the Almighty, the All-Wise.

God manifests His attributes for human beings to perceive. For example, He has endless mercy and manifests His attribute as the "Merciful" in human beings. His qualities can be seen in those people, although they do not enjoy these qualities as a result of their own efforts or merits. By themselves, no other beings can possess or create the attributes of God. To assert that they do have this ability is to "set up another god together with God." Like Buddhists, they make the mistake of associating His creatures with God, attributing some of His qualities to other, lesser beings.

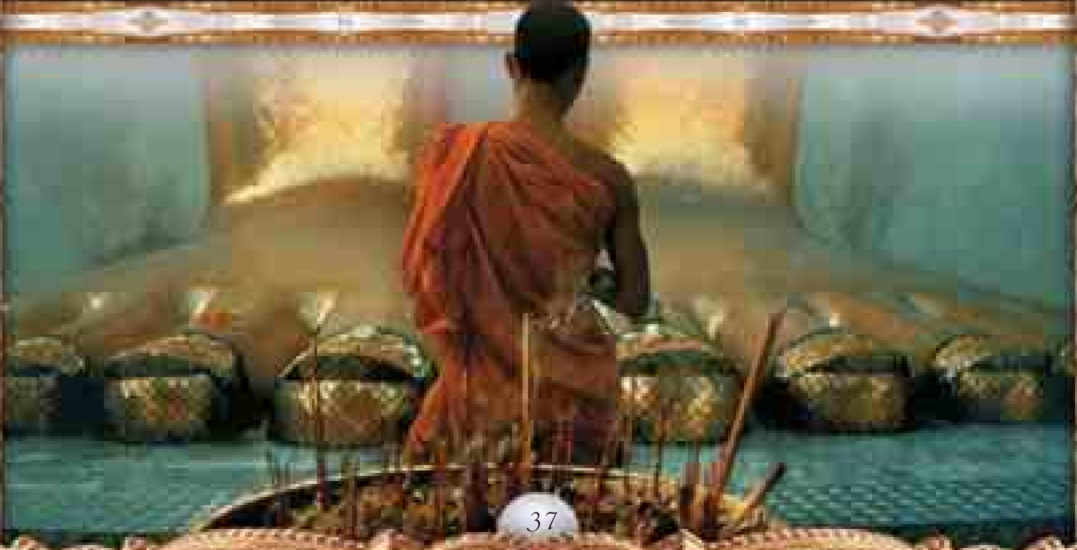
For example, God is All-Seeing and knows "what is even more concealed." When someone acts in secret, with no one around, believ-



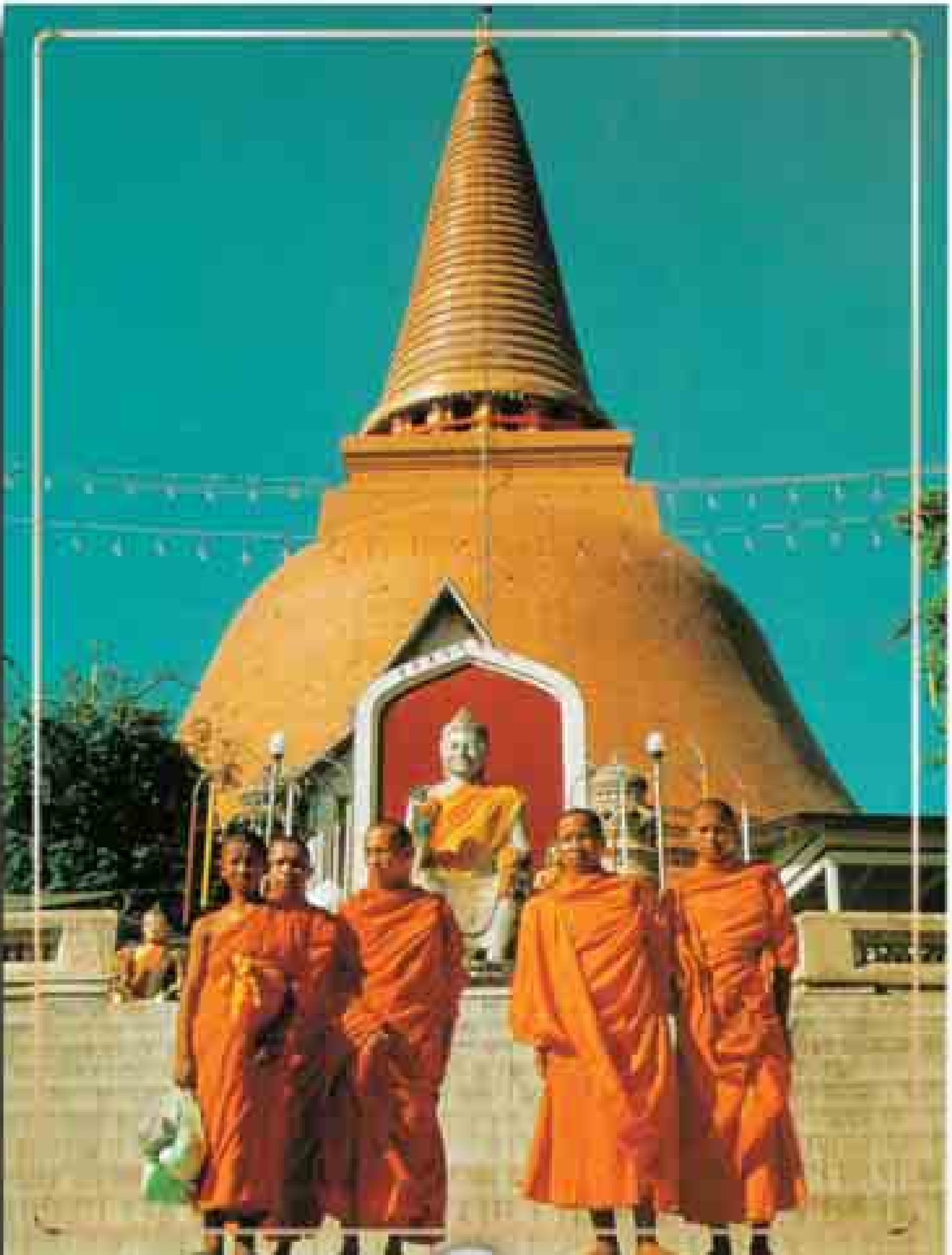


ing that no one sees him, our Lord does see him and knows everything that he does. He sees and knows every event that happens in the universe, down to its smallest details, because He is the One God Who created them

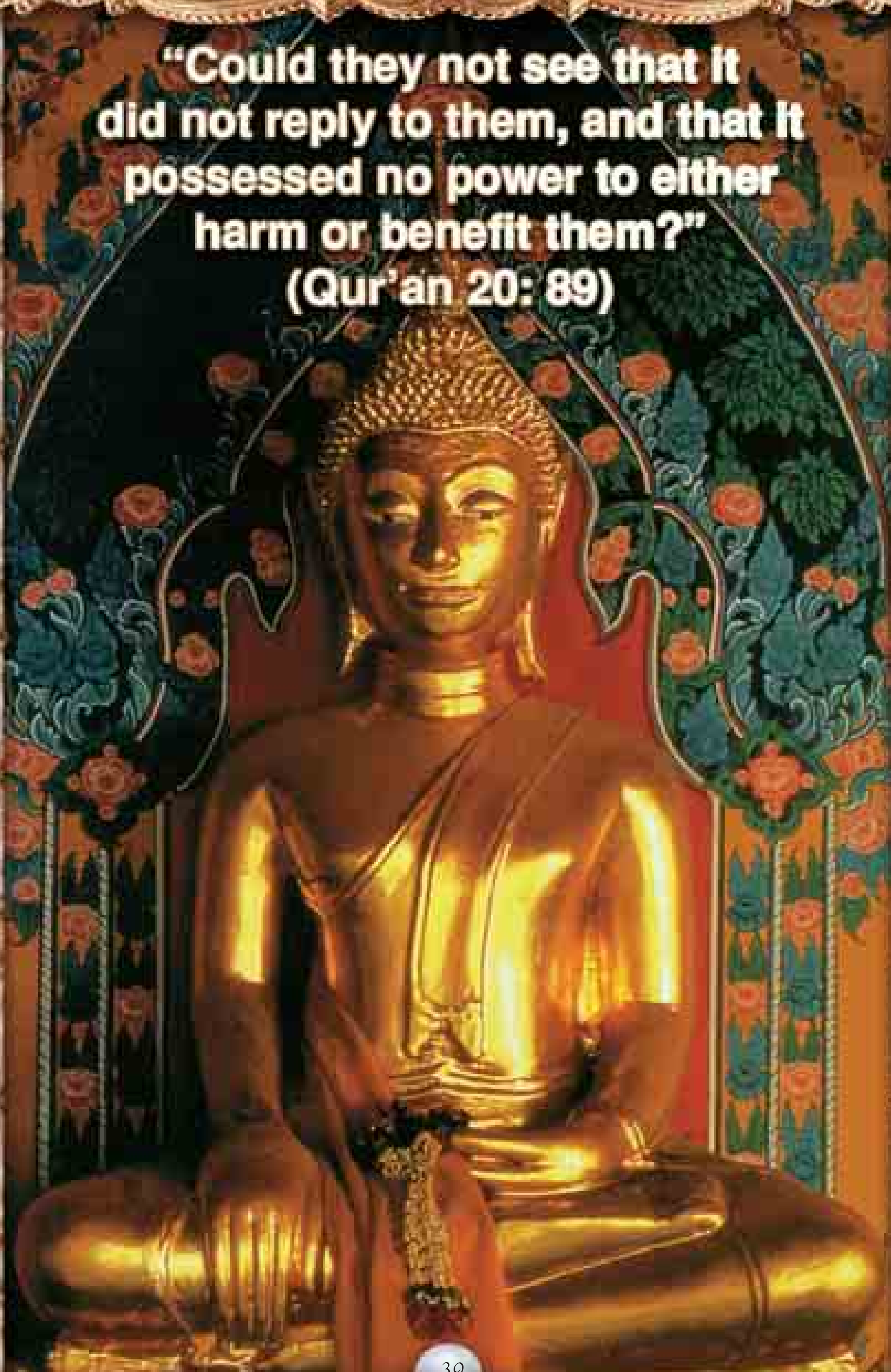




all. In the Qur'an (6: 103), God affirms that, **"Eyesight cannot perceive Him, but He perceives eyesight. He is the All-Penetrating, the All-Aware."**



"Could they not see that it did not reply to them, and that it possessed no power to either harm or benefit them?"
(Qur'an 20: 89)



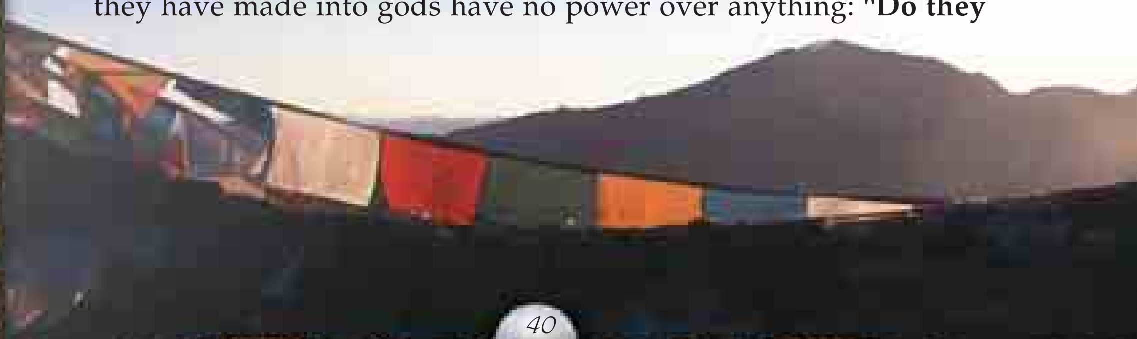
Wherever a person is, it's absolutely true that God is with him. God knows what you're thinking at this very moment, as you're reading these words. God tells us that He sees us wherever we are:

> **You do not engage in any matter or recite any of the Qur'an or do any action without Our witnessing you while you are occupied with it. Not even the smallest speck eludes your Lord, either on earth or in heaven. Nor is there anything smaller than that, or larger, which is not in a Clear Book. (Qur'an, 10: 61)**

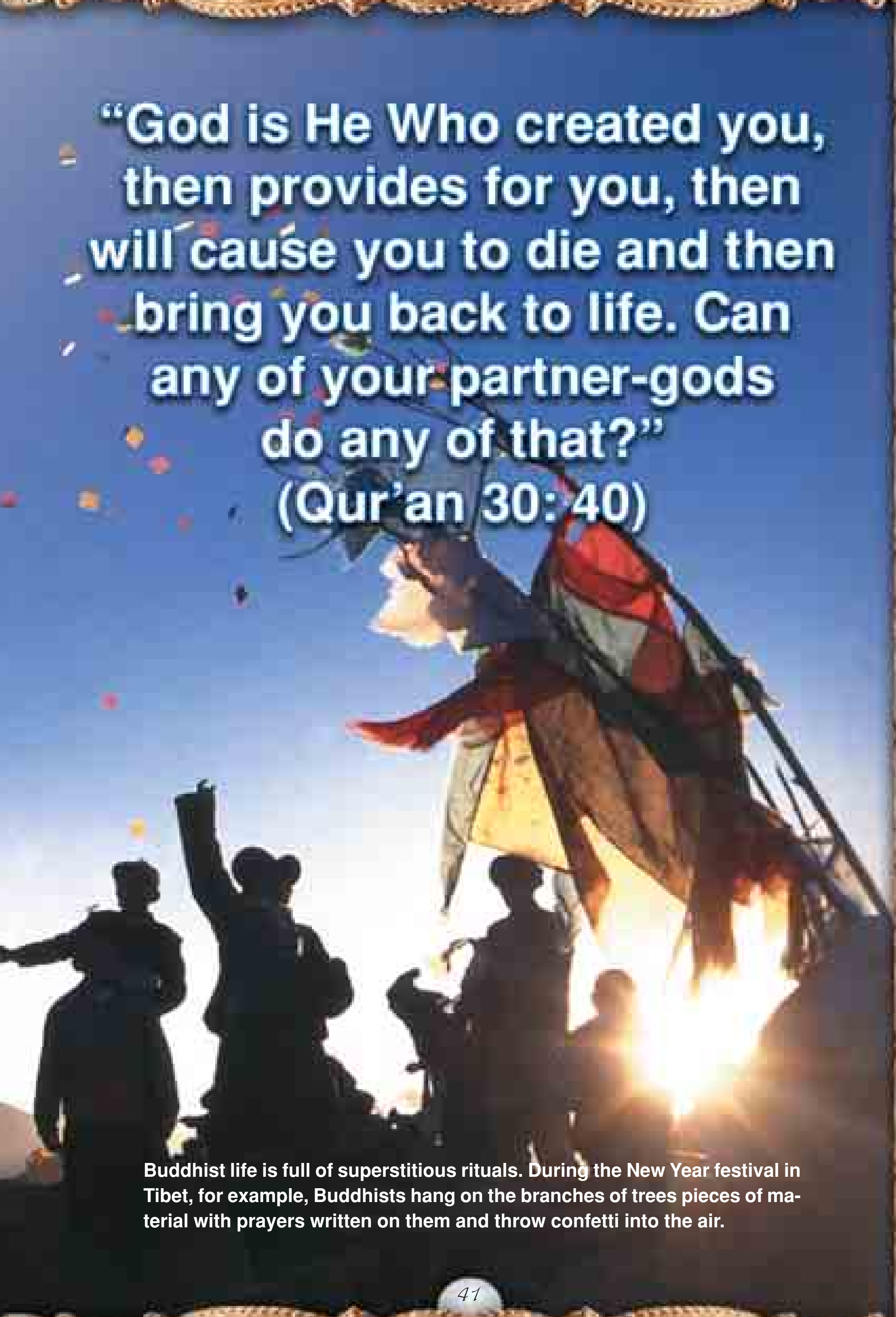
> **It is He Who created the heavens and the earth in six days, then established Himself firmly on the Throne. He knows what goes into the earth and what comes out of it, what comes down from heaven and what goes up into it. He is with you wherever you are—God sees what you do. (Qur'an, 57: 4)**

This point reveals Buddhists' idolatrous understanding, as do many others. Buddha's followers regard him as all-seeing and all-knowing. The proliferation of statues of Buddha in countries where it is the dominant religion, and the eyes of Buddha painted on every temple all bear witness to Buddhists' deviant belief that Buddha sees them at every moment with his eyes made of stone or wood, and hears them with his wooden ears. For this reason, they fill their houses with his statues, in front of which they perform acts of reverence.

In this, they are acting contrary to intelligence and committing a grave sin. In the Qur'an (7: 195), God tells us that people who associate others with God are greatly deceived; and that whatever things they have made into gods have no power over anything: **"Do they**



"God is He Who created you, then provides for you, then will cause you to die and then bring you back to life. Can any of your partner-gods do any of that?"
(Qur'an 30: 40)



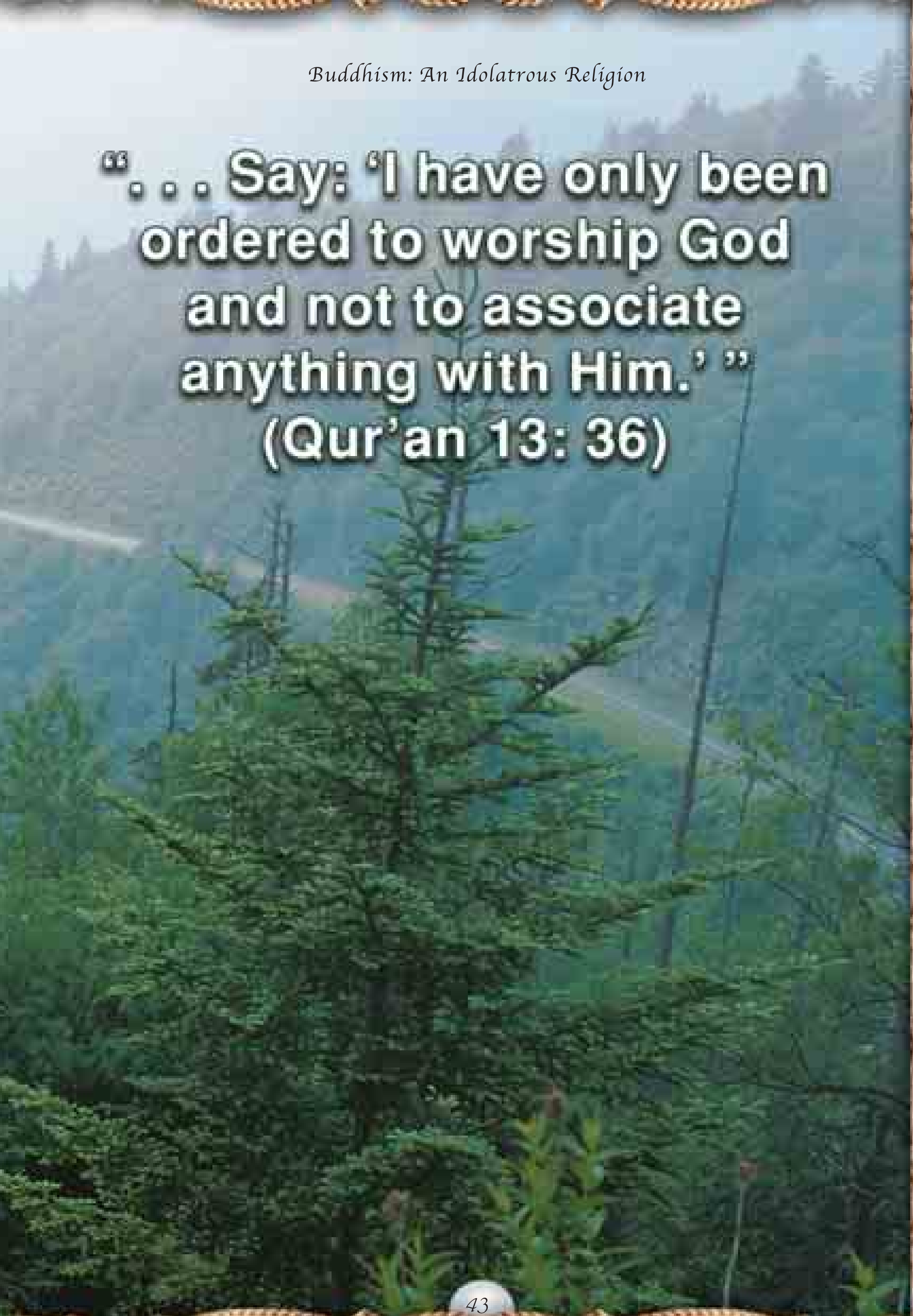
Buddhist life is full of superstitious rituals. During the New Year festival in Tibet, for example, Buddhists hang on the branches of trees pieces of material with prayers written on them and throw confetti into the air.

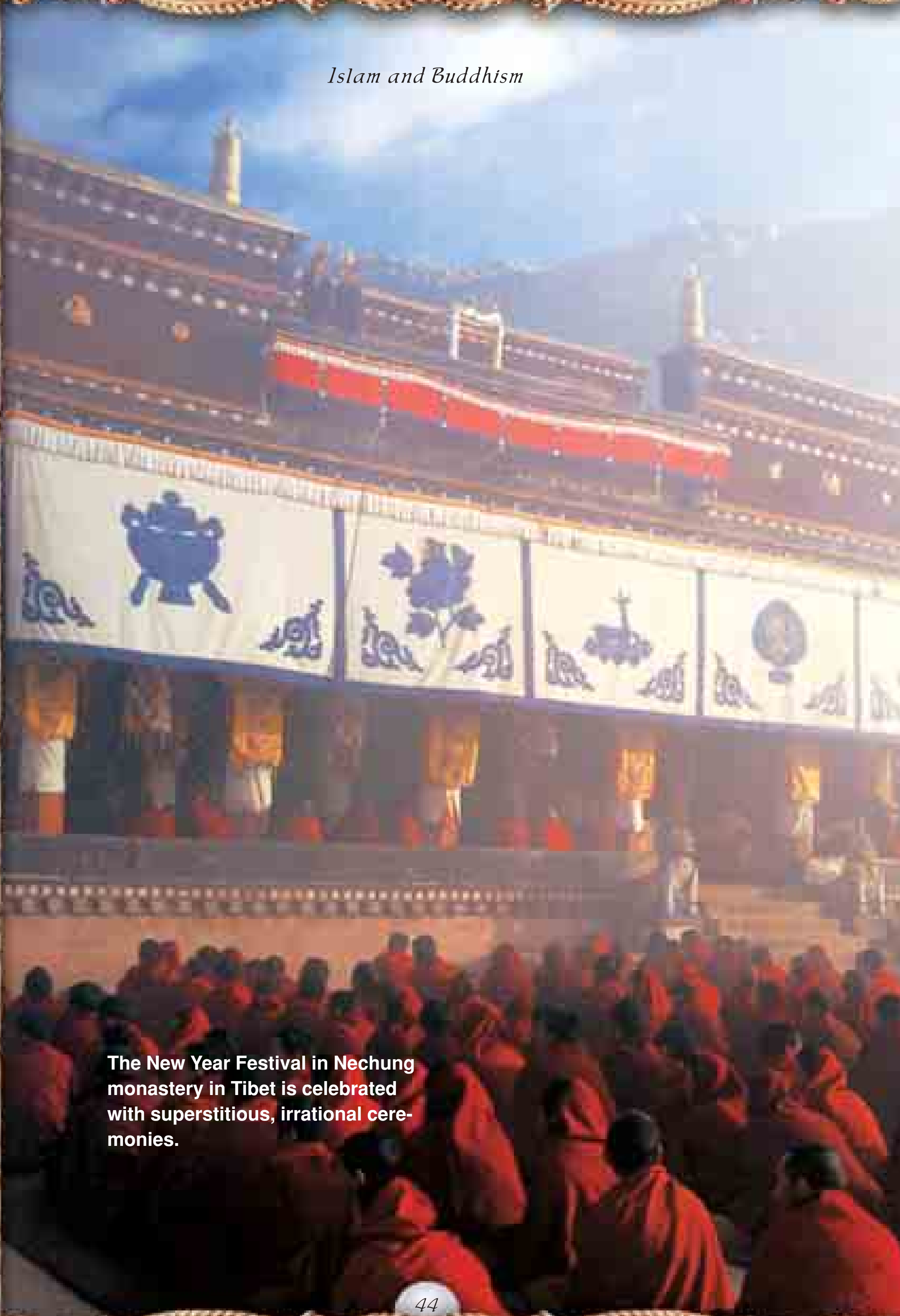
have legs they can walk with? Do they have hands they can grasp with? Do they have eyes they can see with? Do they have ears they can hear with?" Never forget, "idolatry" does not mean only the worship of material idols. Anyone who honors another person for his possessions, thinking that they belong to him and derive from some power of his own, deifies that person, not realizing that these transient objects are a test that God has posed for him. As God warns in the Qur'an (2: 165):

> **Among the people are those who take other than God as equals [to Him], loving them as they should love God. But those who believe have greater love for God. If only you could see those who do wrong at the time when they see the punishment, and that truly all strength belongs to God, and that God is severe in punishment.**



". . . Say: 'I have only been ordered to worship God and not to associate anything with Him.' "
(Qur'an 13: 36)





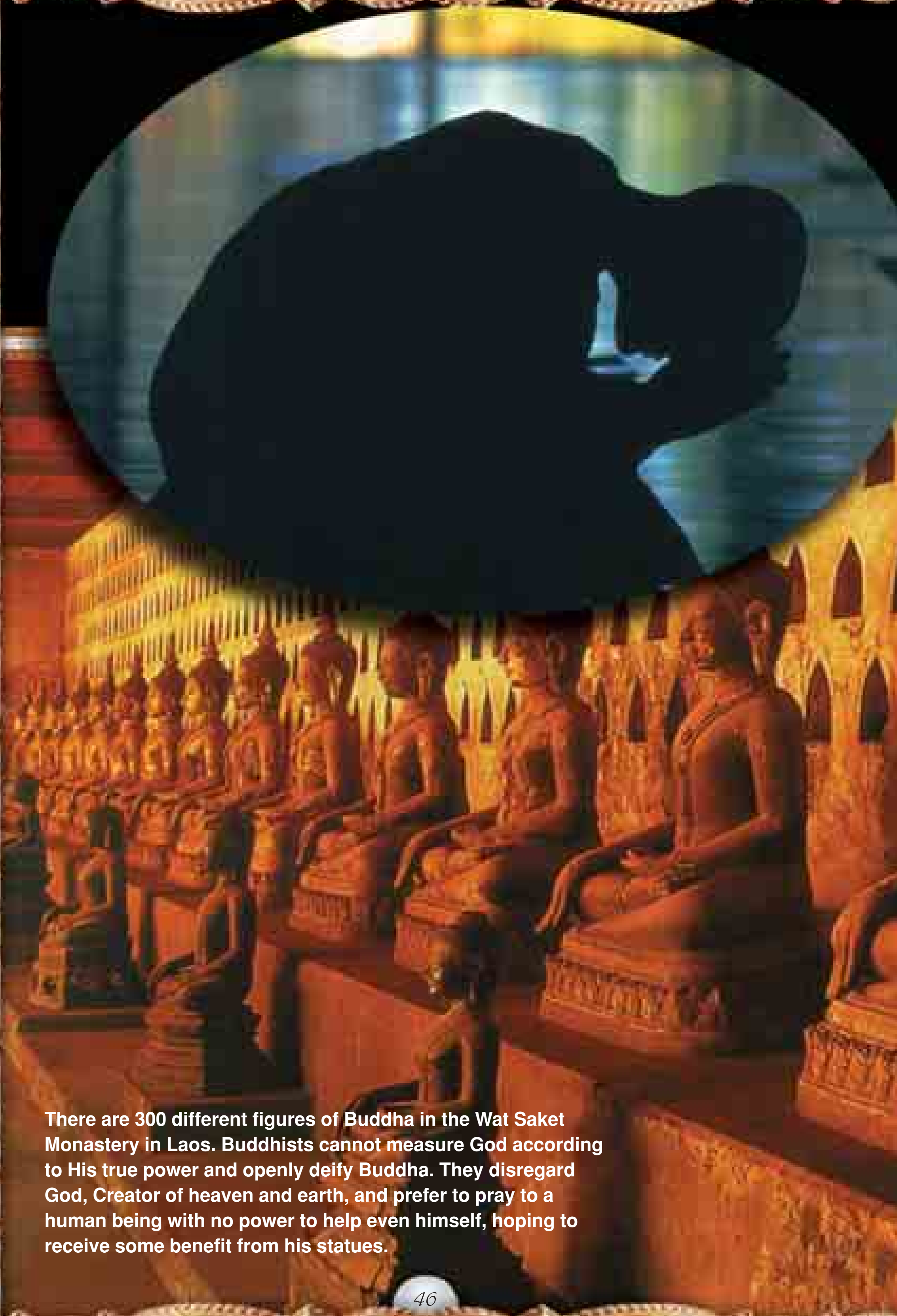
The New Year Festival in Nechung monastery in Tibet is celebrated with superstitious, irrational ceremonies.

Buddha was a powerless servant whom God created and tested in this world; he had no ability or will of his own to influence people. It was by God's will that he spoke, and he lived the life that God gave him, according to the fate that God had determined. Abraham's (peace be upon him) prayer in the Qur'an (26: 78-82) expresses most clearly the helplessness of human beings before God's absolute might:

He Who created me and guides me; He Who gives me food and gives me drink; and when I am ill, it is He Who heals me; He Who will cause my death, then give me life; He Who I sincerely hope will forgive my mistakes on the Day of Reckoning.

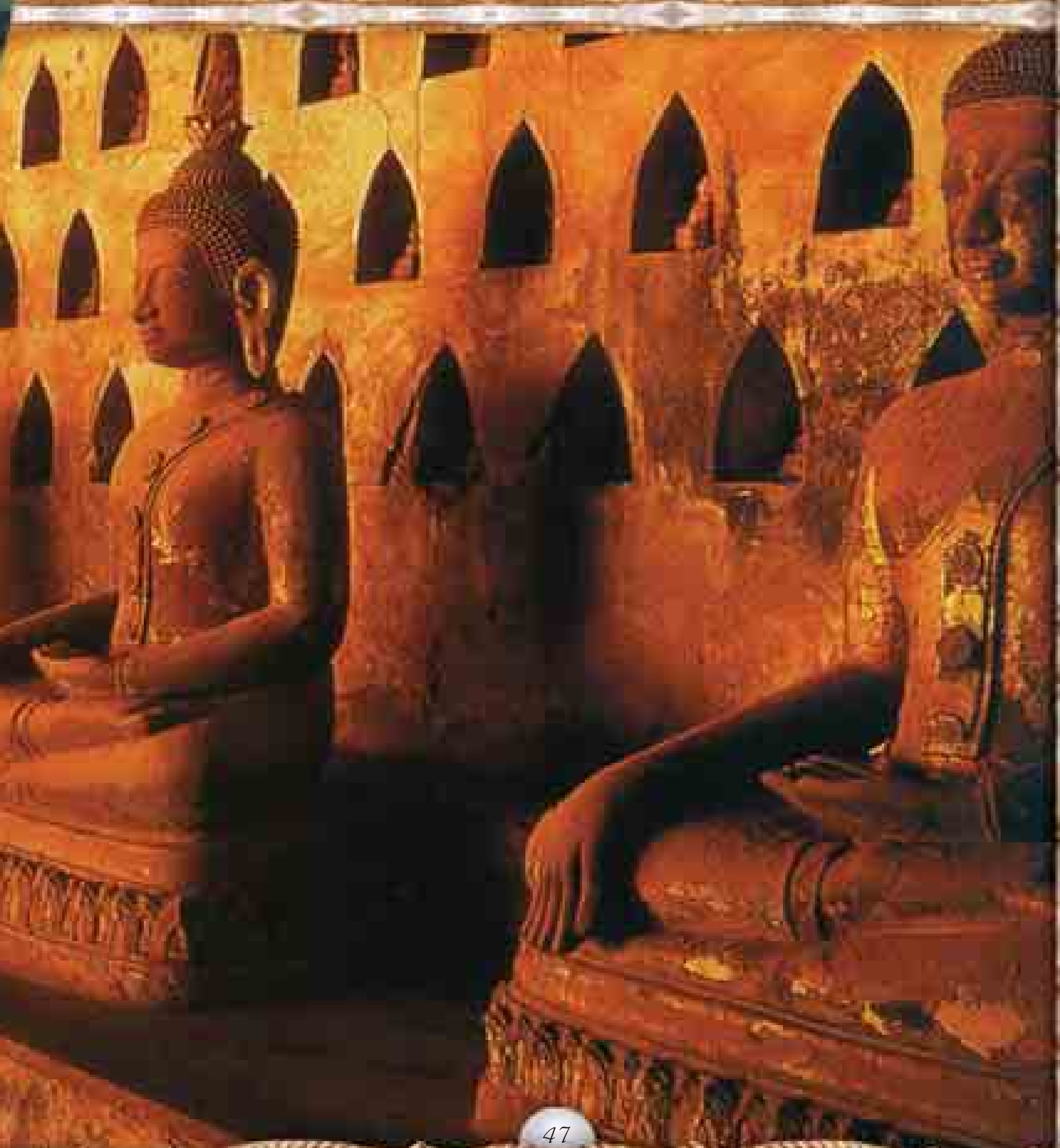
Buddha lived the fate that God had ordained for him, and when his time came, he died. It must not be forgotten that apart from God's will, no one can have faith; it is God Who guides human beings.





There are 300 different figures of Buddha in the Wat Saket Monastery in Laos. Buddhists cannot measure God according to His true power and openly deify Buddha. They disregard God, Creator of heaven and earth, and prefer to pray to a human being with no power to help even himself, hoping to receive some benefit from his statues.

“They only worship as their forebears worshipped previously.”
(Qur’an 11: 109)





Unless God wills it, no one can guide another to the right path. Again, it is God Who guides people toward truth and beauty. Invitations and communications influence the human heart only insofar as God wills it. Indeed, He is the only absolute power that must be magnified, adored and entreated for help. As God announced this truth in the Qur'an (22: 74): **"They do not measure God according to His true power. God is All-Strong, Almighty."**

The Qur'an gives a number of examples of people who worship idols. As just one example, the polytheist people of Abraham carved representations of their gods, worshipped them, and listened to their calls. In the Qur'an (21: 52-53), our Lord relates: **"When he [Abraham] said to his father and his people, 'What are these statues you are clinging to?' they said, 'We found our fathers worshipping them.' "**

As these verses show, human beings have adopted this kind of worship as an inheritance that their ancestors have passed down to

"The kingdom of the heavens and earth belongs to God and, on the Day that the Hour arrives, that Day, the falsifiers will lose." (Qur'an 45: 27)



them. Thus idol worship, no matter how illogical, can be a kind of social activity remembered from childhood and not regarded as strange, even in the most modern societies.

In the Qur'an (27: 24-25), God says that the people of Sheba (Saba') were idolaters, just like the people of Abraham:

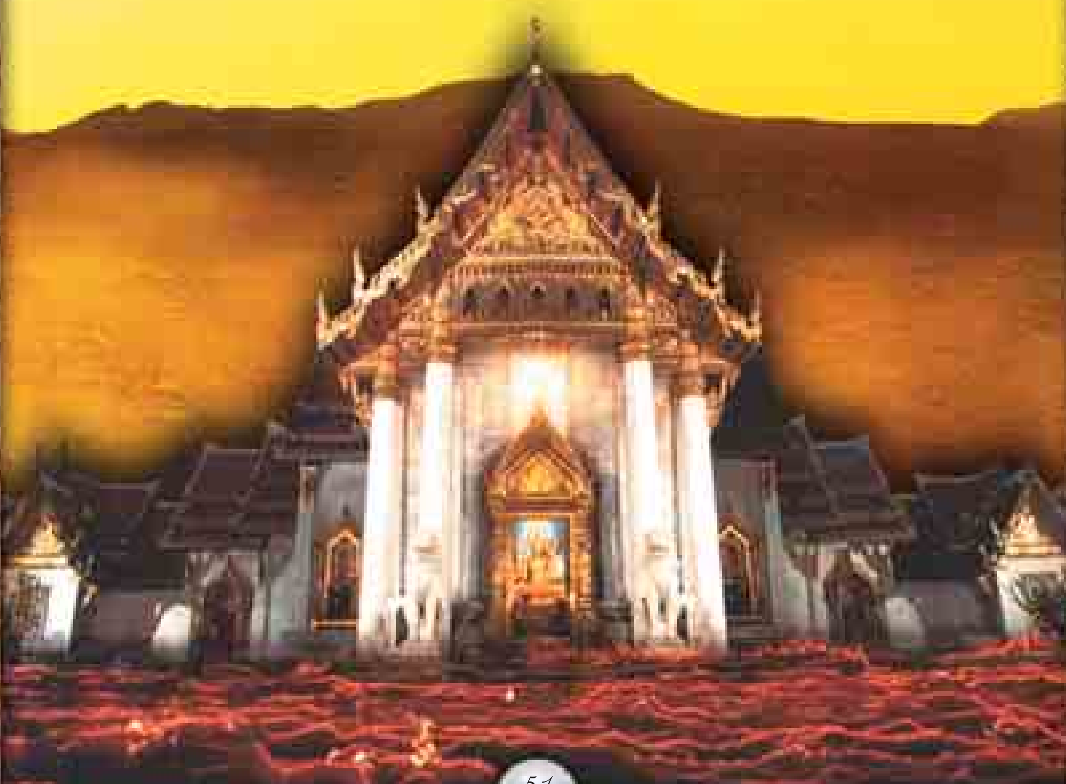
> **I found both her [the Queen of Sheba] and her people prostrating to the sun instead of God. Satan has made their actions seem good to them and debarred them from the Way so they are not guided and do not prostrate to God, Who brings out what is hidden in the heavens and the earth, and knows what you conceal and what you divulge.**

These verses draw our attention to another important point: that Satan has made idolatrous religions seem valid and meaningful to people, to bar them from God's Way. Satan knows, for example, that the sun is not a god to be worshipped; but a creation of God like all the rest of the universe. In other words, every idolatrous religion that opposes God's revelation is actually based on the revelations of Satan, who does this so that men and women will not prostrate themselves before God.

Another example of idolatry that God gives In the Qur'an concerns the Children of Israel. While they were escaping Pharaoh and his people with Moses (peace be upon him), they met a people that worshipped idols and they wanted Moses to make them a similar idol. In the Qur'an (7: 138-139), God tells about this:

> **We conveyed the tribe of Israel across the sea, and they came upon some people who were devoting themselves to some idols that they had. They said, "Moses, give us a god just as these people have gods." He said, "You are indeed an ignorant people. What these people are doing is destined for destruction. What they are doing is purposeless."**

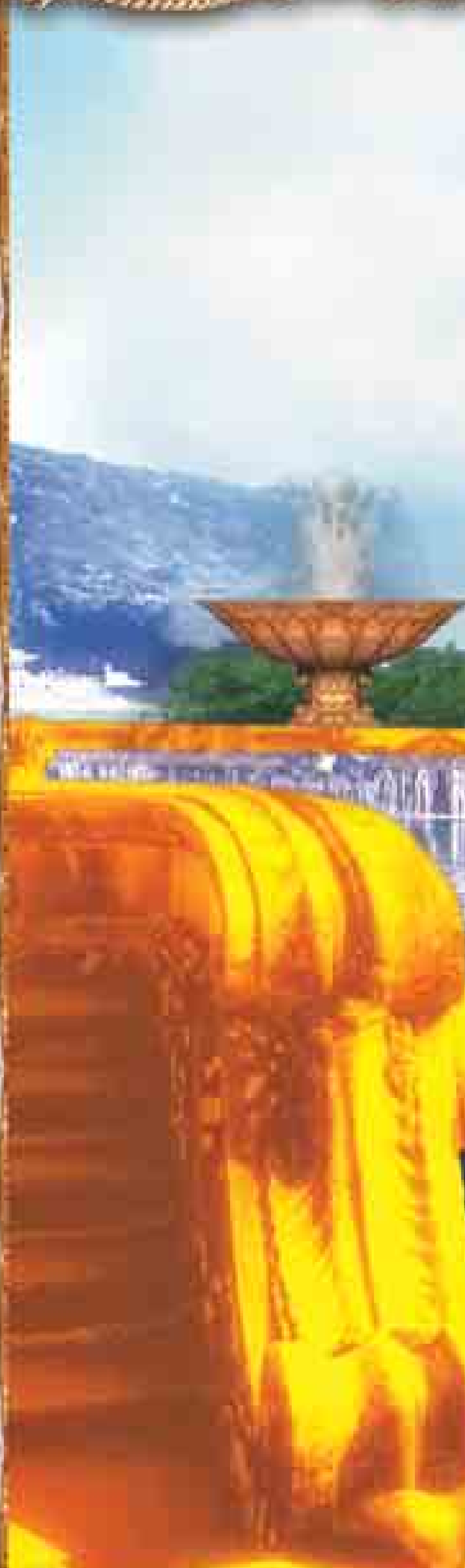
"Say: 'God is a sufficient witness between me and you.' He knows everything in the heavens and the earth. Those who believe in falsehood and reject God, they are the losers."
(Qur'an 29: 52)

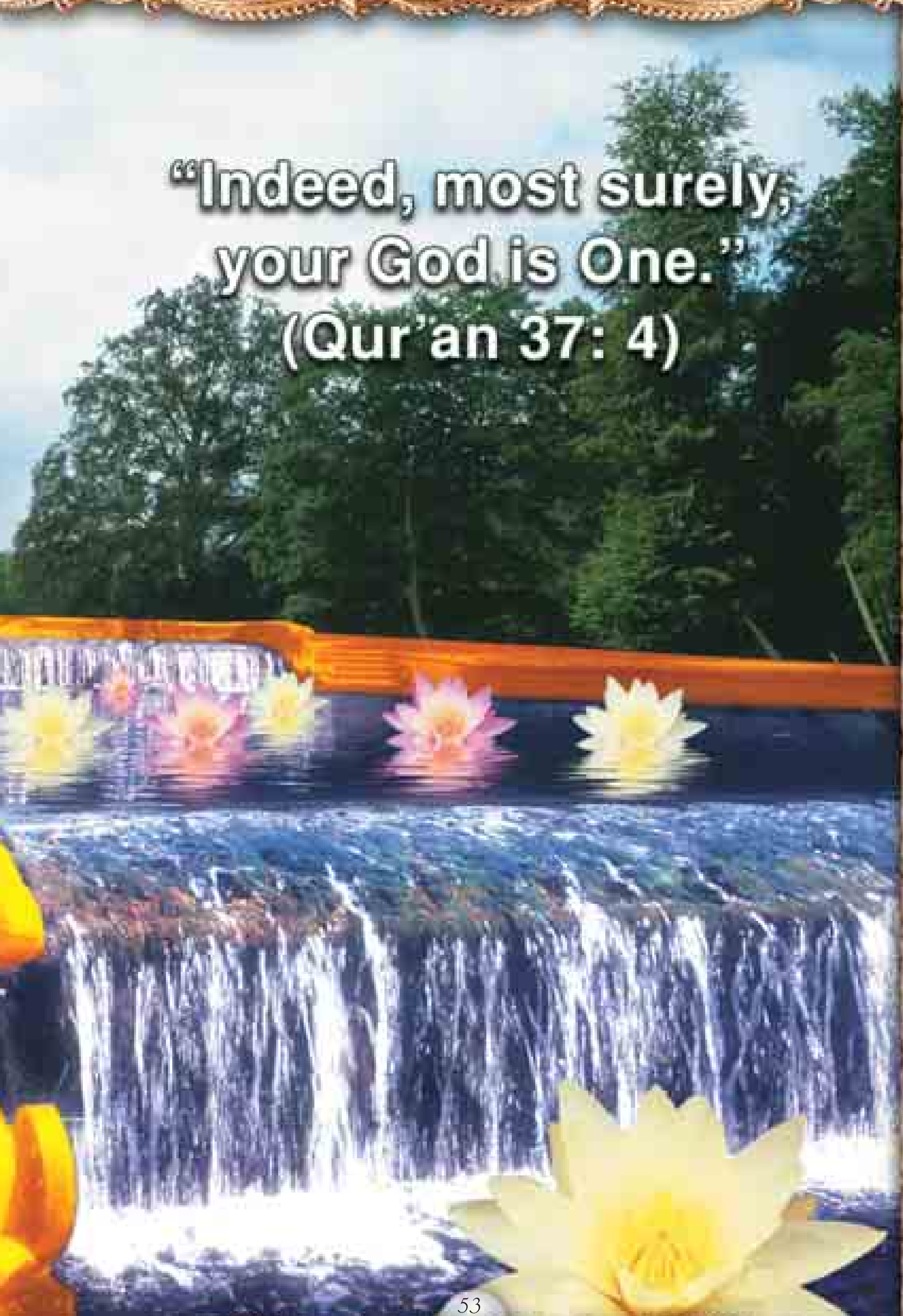


From this account, we see that the Children of Israel, acting in ignorance, wanted a god they could see with their eyes, before which they could bow down and perhaps perform elaborate ceremonies. This indicates they did not conceive of, much less appreciate, God's might. Although Moses explained the truth to them, as soon as he left them, they made themselves an idol—a great perversion. In the Qur'an (7: 148-149), God tells us that immediately after, regret overcame them:

> **After he left, Moses's people adopted a calf made from their ornaments, a form which made a lowing sound. Did they not see that it could not speak to them or guide them to any way? They adopted it, and so they were wrongdoers.**
>
> **When they took full stock of what they had done and saw they had been misled, they said, "If our Lord does not have mercy on us and forgive us, we will certainly be among the lost."**

But to those who had made the calf into a god, God gave this answer (Qur'an, 7: 152):




“Indeed, most surely,
your God is One.”
(Qur’an 37: 4)

As for those who adopted the Calf, anger from their Lord will overtake them together with abasement in the life of this world. That is how we repay the purveyors of falsehood.

The above verses show that if God wills, He can forgive or punish those who associate His creatures with Him. Those who do so are actually fabricating falsehood, since the evident truth is that there is only one God. To bow before these invented gods is a terrible crime against God. As stated in the Qur'an (4: 48), God may forgive those who commit every other sin and error, but never one who associates His creatures with Him:

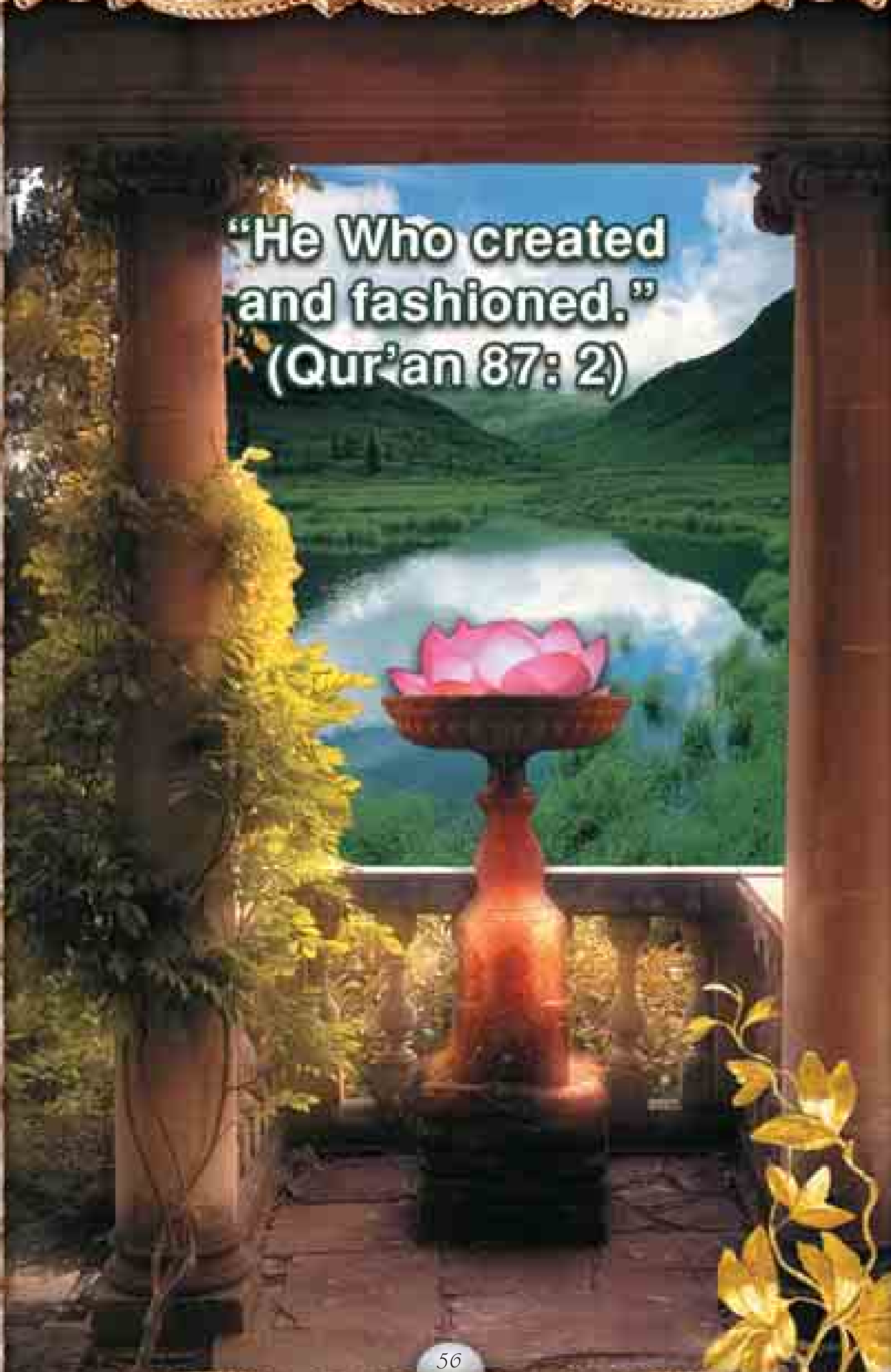
God does not forgive anything being associated with Him but He forgives whoever He wills for anything other than that. Anyone who associates something with God has committed a terrible crime.

There is No Deity Except God

The basis of Islam is the knowledge that God exists, and the understanding that there is no god but Him. In the Qur'an, the divine source of Islam, God tells us (2: 163) that this is the greatest foundation of religion: **"Your God is God Alone. There is no deity except Him, the All-Merciful, the Most Merciful."**

Indeed, there is only one Absolute Being, and everything else is His creation. God made the universe we live in and, be-


"The Lord of the East and the West and everything between them. . . "
(Qur'an 26: 28)


"He Who created
and fashioned."
(Qur'an 87: 2)



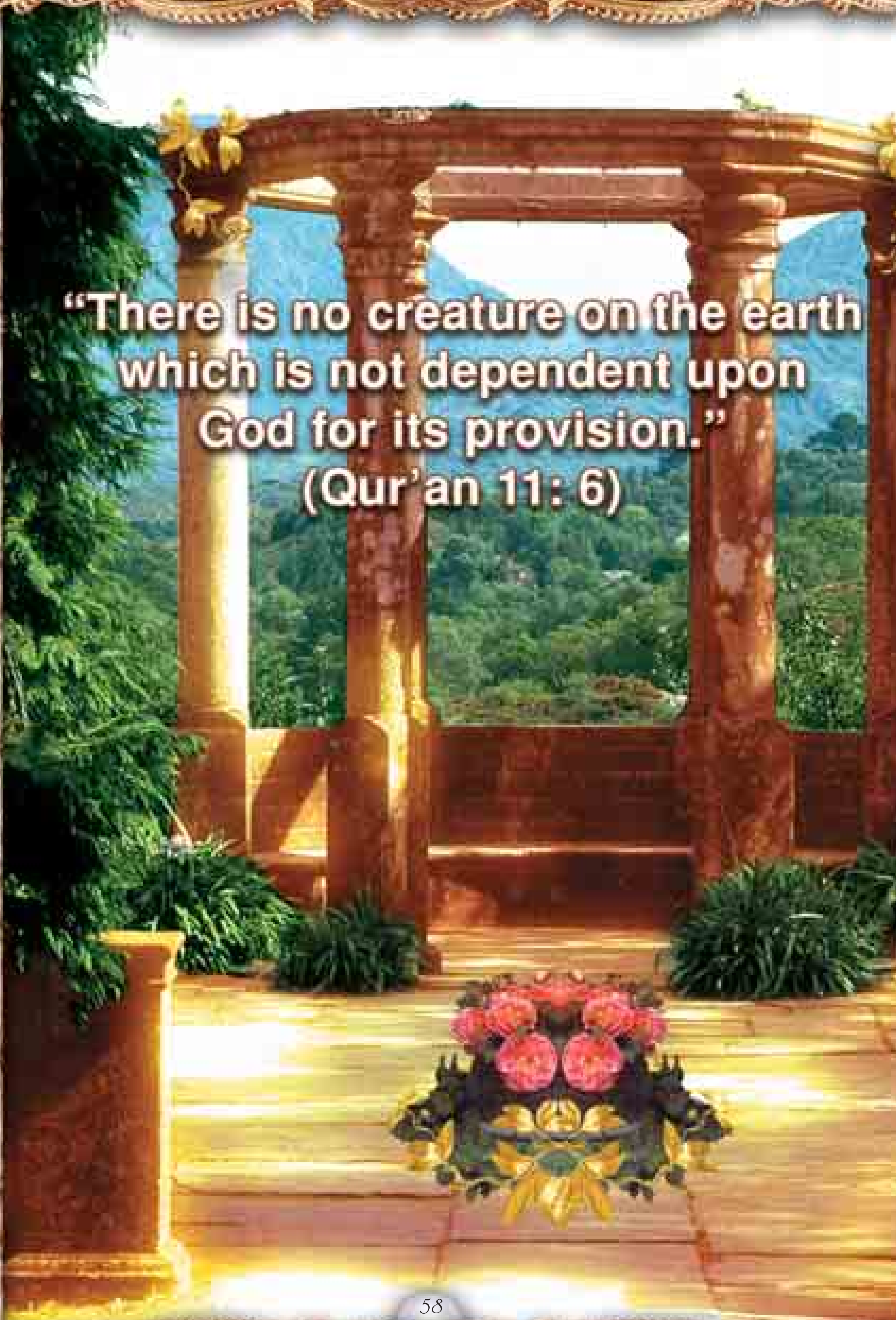
fore He created it, no material thing existed. Nothing, animate or inanimate, had been brought into existence; there was nothing but a complete void. The moment the universe was created, only then did time, space and matter come into being, created by the Eternal God Who is not subject to any of them. In one verse (2: 117) of the Qur'an, God speaks of Himself as the flawless Creator of the universe:

[He is] The Originator of the heavens and earth. When He decides on something, He just says to it, "Be!" and it is.

God creates everything that is happening at this moment, and every moment. God constantly creates every rain drop that falls, every child who is born, the photosynthesis occurring in leaves, the functions of living bodies, the courses of the stars in their galaxies, every seed that sprouts, all we know and everything we do not. Everything in the universe, great and small, functions according to His command (Qur'an, 27: 64):

He Who originates creation and then regenerates it and provides for you from out of heaven and earth. Is there another god besides God? Say: "Bring your proof if you are being truthful."

From the cells of living things to the stars in the universe, all systems exist in wonderful order and function perfectly. This amazing order, controlled at every moment, continues in perfect harmony because our Lord embraces all existing things with His eternal knowledge (Qur'an, 67: 3-4):


"There is no creature on the earth
which is not dependent upon
God for its provision."
(Qur'an 11: 6)

He created the seven heavens in layers. You will not find any flaw in the creation of the All-Merciful. Look again—do you see any gaps? Then look again and again. Your sight will return to you dazzled and exhausted!

To reject God as Creator and to attribute consciousness to any of the objects He has created shows a great lack of intelligence. The wonderful order in the universe and the flawless design in all living things show us that one Creator created them all. In one verse (23: 91), God announced that there is no other god besides Him, and that no other exist-



ing thing in the universe possesses power, apart from Him:

God has no son, and there is no other god accompanying Him, for then each god would have gone off with what He created, and one of them would have been exalted above the other. Glory be to God above what they describe.

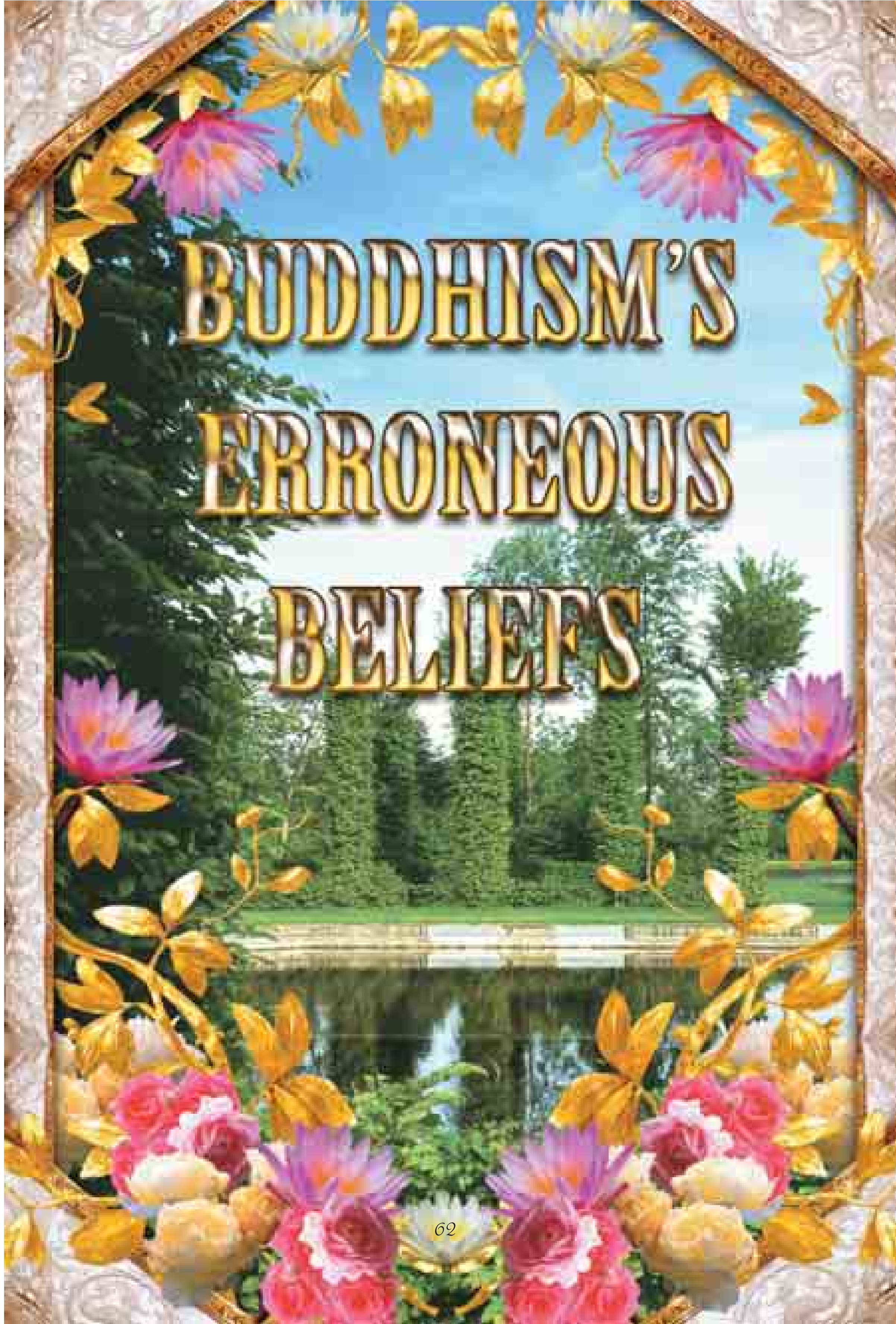
God is everywhere and encompasses all things. He is the one true, absolute Being, and all things obey His will. God is in every moment and in every place. There is no place where He is not; no living thing exists that is beyond His control. He is All-sufficient and free from all weakness (Qur'an, 2: 255):

God, there is no god but Him, the Living, the Self-Sustaining. He is not subject to drowsiness or sleep. Everything in the heavens and the earth belongs to Him. Who can intercede with Him except by His permission? He knows what is before them and what is behind them but they cannot grasp any of His knowledge save what He wills. His Footstool encompasses the heavens and the earth and their preservation does not tire Him. He is the Most High, the Magnificent.





"Everything in the heavens and everything in the earth belongs to Him. He is the Most High, the Magnificent."
(Qur'an 42: 4)


BUDDHISM'S
ERRONEOUS
BELIEFS

The erroneous beliefs of Buddhism vary greatly from country to country, because over the past 2500 years, this religion has mingled with the various local religions, customs, and established cultures of countries into which it has spread. Today, the varieties of Buddhism practiced in Japan, China, Tibet, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and America are all quite different from one another.

As historical sources show, Buddha always chose to speak about his basic tenets and deliver his way of worship orally; centuries of research has determined that he left behind no written texts. Buddhists maintain that his sermons were passed down orally from generation to generation for 400 years, until they were finally compiled in the Pali canon. However, most scholars believe that the great majority of these words are not Buddha's at all, but were added to in the course of centuries until they attained their present form. Therefore Buddhism, not relying on any written texts, underwent many changes and distortions over the course of time, being considerably reshaped by additions and omissions.

Today, Buddhism's holy book, written in the Pali language, is called the Tipitaka, which means "triple basket." It is not known for sure when the Tipitaka was written down, but it is thought to have attained its present shape in Sri Lanka sometime in the first century B.C. Its texts are divided into the following chapters:

1. *Vinaya Pitaka*: This chapter, meaning "Basket of Discipline," contains rules relevant to priests and nuns and how they should be followed. There are also some matters of relevance to those lay readers who are not priests or nuns.

2. *Sutta Pitaka*: Most of this volume is composed of talks in which Buddha explained his ideas. For this reason, this chapter is called the "Basket of Discourse." These words of his were passed down through the centuries, becoming mixed with other legends and false beliefs.



In Tibet, the dissemination of Buddhist texts is one of the most important acts of worship. In particular, priests who have removed themselves from the world completely give themselves solely to this work. With no idea of the true nature of the afterlife, these people live out their worldly lives in vain pursuits.





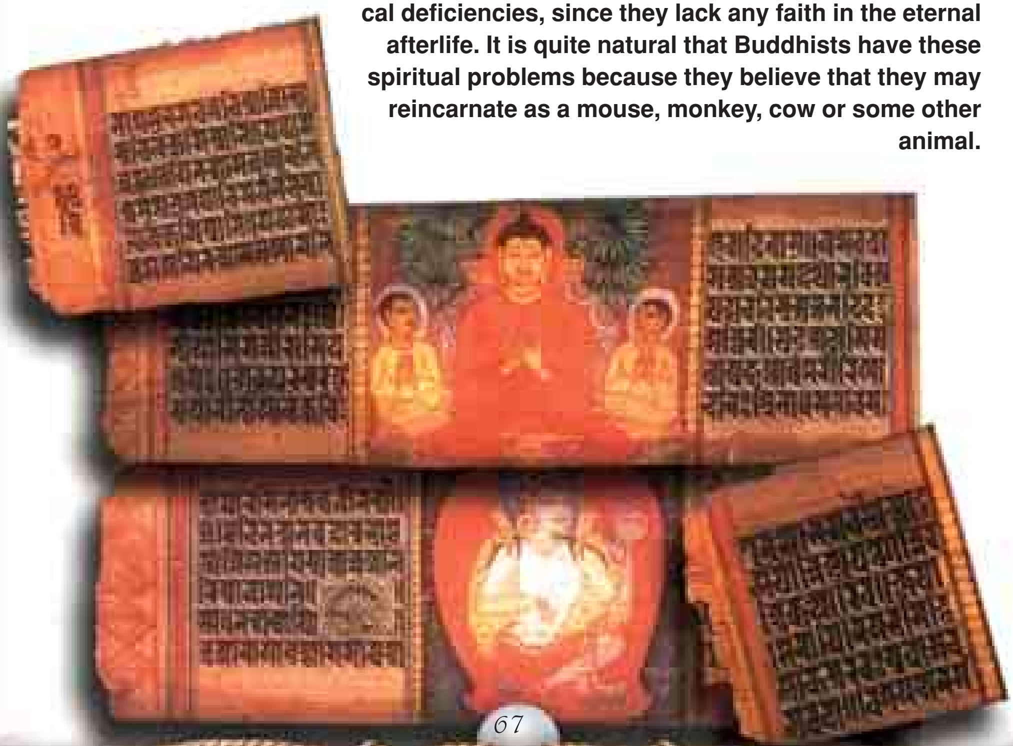
Throughout the centuries, libraries in Tibet have been destroyed. But handwritten books by Tibetan priests are still preserved in neighboring regions. All this Buddhist literature leads people to lead a nightmarish life. This perverse and benighted religion claims that after they die, people might come back as a cow or a mouse and condemns them to lives of fear and anxiety.



3. *Abhidhamma Pitaka*: This volume contains Buddhist philosophy and interpretations of Buddha's sermons.

Today's Buddhist priests regard these texts as holy; they worship and organize their lives according to them. They portray Buddha as an actual god (God is surely beyond that!), and for this reason, modern Buddhists bow before his statues, place before them offerings of food and flowers, and expect help from them. This is a completely illogical practice, however, and anyone who believes that stone or bronze statues can hear or help is greatly deceived. Later in this book, we examine these basically pagan practices in more detail, and see how Buddhism has become a secret doctrine concentrating on human

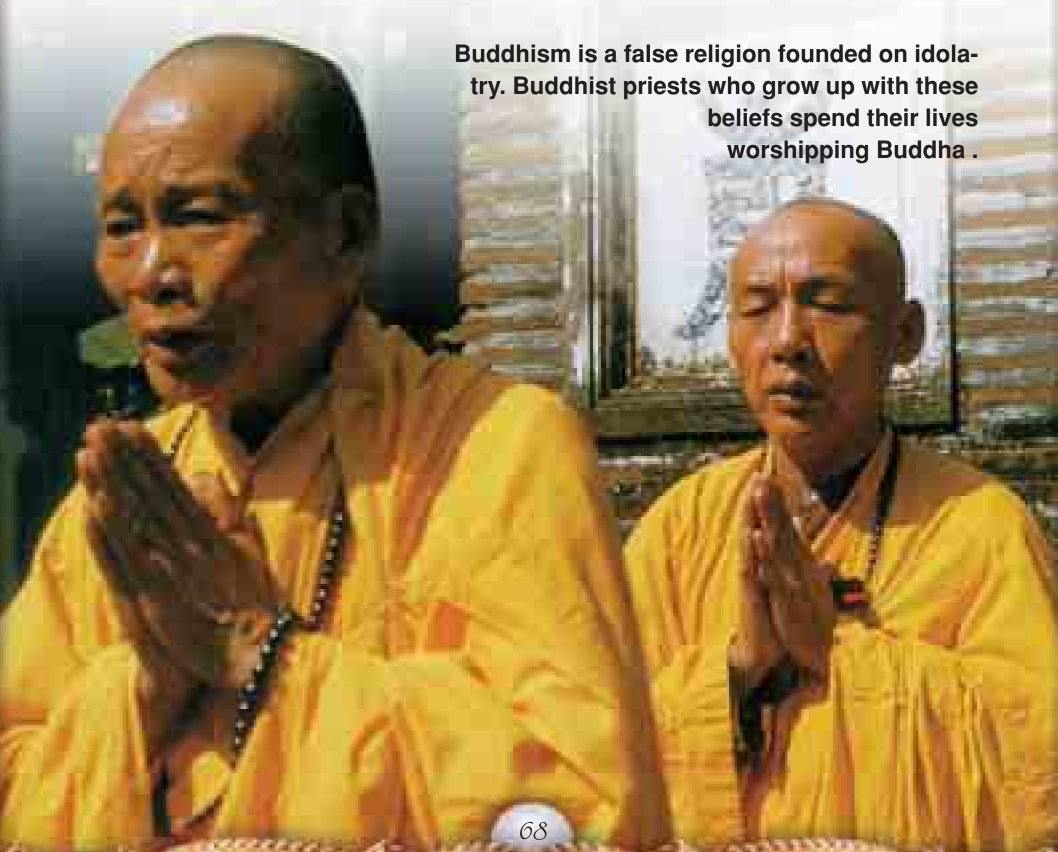
Priests who translate texts from ancient languages are important in Buddhism. In the photograph on the facing page, Buddha watches and encourages priests doing this work. Below: A Sanskrit text from the 11th century contains sections on the life of Buddha. Those espousing the perverse beliefs in these texts have serious moral and psychological deficiencies, since they lack any faith in the eternal afterlife. It is quite natural that Buddhists have these spiritual problems because they believe that they may reincarnate as a mouse, monkey, cow or some other animal.



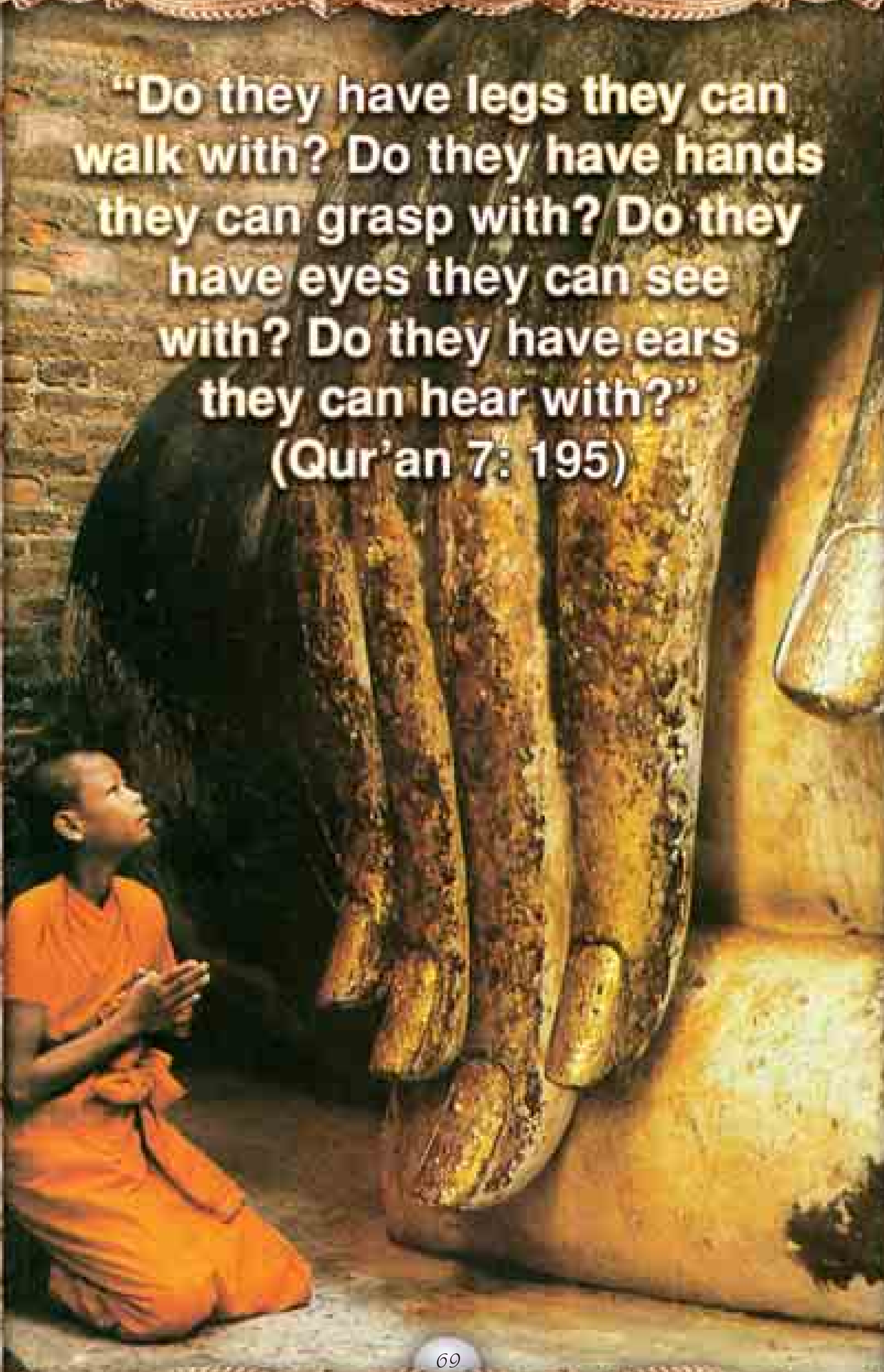
beings without accounting for questions of how this world's flawless systems function, much less how the entire universe came to be.

An Atheistic Religion

Buddhist philosophy denies the existence of God, but bases itself on a few aspects of human morality and on escaping from sufferings of this world. Without any intellectual or scientific support, it rests upon the twin concepts of karma and reincarnation—the idea that human beings are continually reborn into this world, that their subsequent lives are shaped by their behavior in their previous ones. No Buddhist scripture considers the existence of a Creator, much less how the universe, the world and living things came to be. No Buddhist text describes how the universe was created from nothing; or how living things came into being; or how to explain the evidence,



Buddhism is a false religion founded on idolatry. Buddhist priests who grow up with these beliefs spend their lives worshipping Buddha .

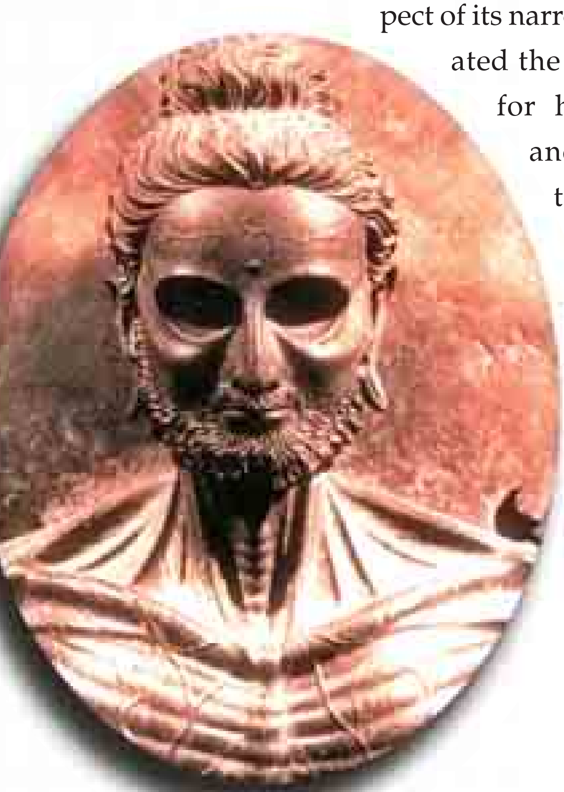

"Do they have legs they can walk with? Do they have hands they can grasp with? Do they have eyes they can see with? Do they have ears they can hear with?"
(Qur'an 7: 195)

to be seen everywhere in this world, of an incomparable creation. According to the Buddhist deception, it is not even necessary to think about these things! The only important thing in life, Buddhist texts claim, is suppressing desires, revering Buddha, and escaping from suffering.

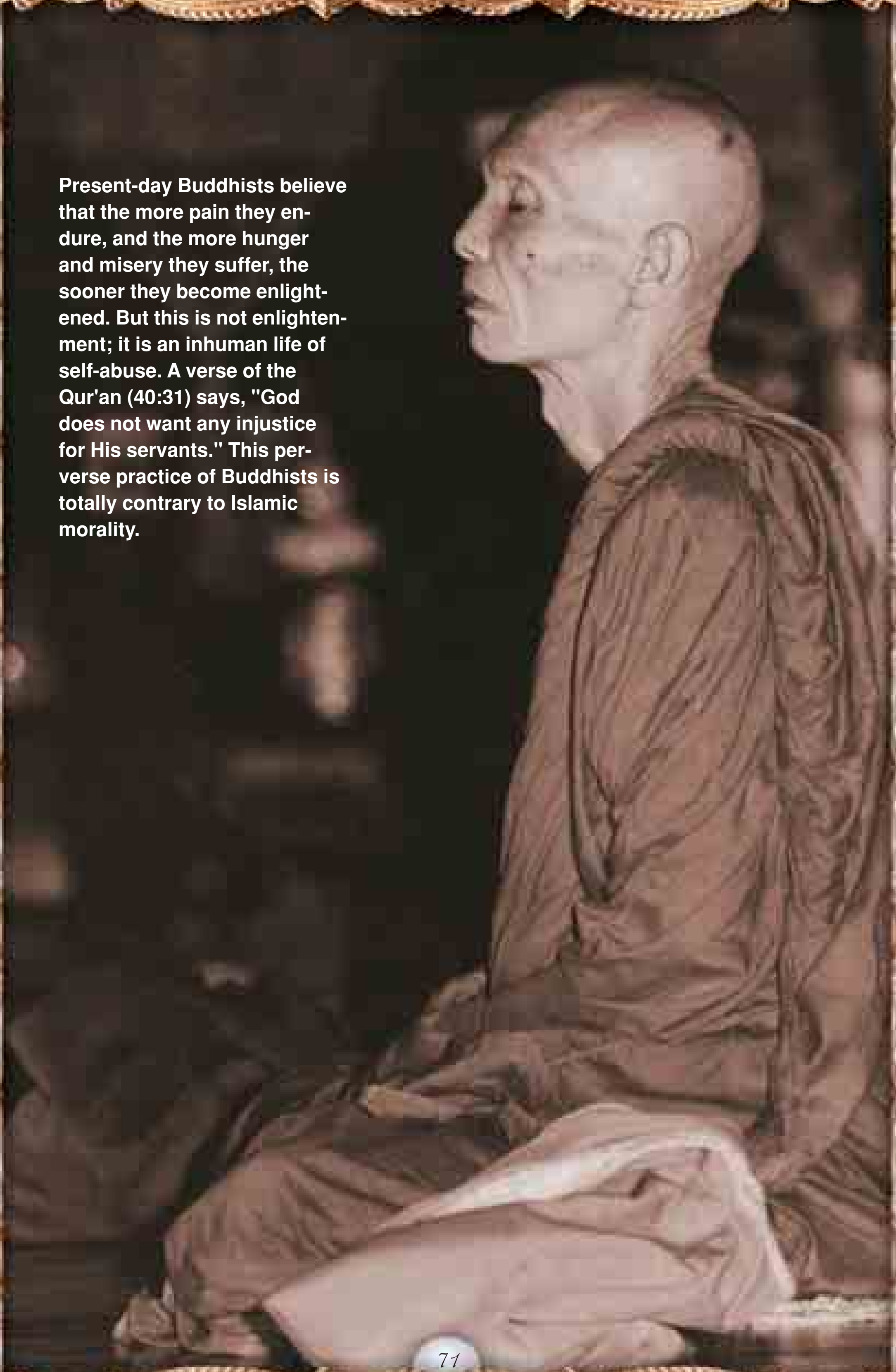
As a religion, therefore, Buddhism suffers from a very narrow vision that keeps its believers from considering such basic questions as where they came from, or how the universe and all living things came to be. Indeed, it deters them from even thinking about these things and presses them into the narrow mold of their present earthly life.

An Oppressive, Enslaving Religion

Buddhism's attempt to nullify all human desires is another aspect of its narrow philosophy. God created the blessings of this world for human beings' benefit and pleasure, and so that they would give Him thanks in return. For this reason, Islam does not command people to suppress their desires or to endure pain and suffering. On the contrary, it enjoins them to take ad-



According to Buddhism, hunger, misery and pain guide the way to the truth.



Present-day Buddhists believe that the more pain they endure, and the more hunger and misery they suffer, the sooner they become enlightened. But this is not enlightenment; it is an inhuman life of self-abuse. A verse of the Qur'an (40:31) says, "God does not want any injustice for His servants." This perverse practice of Buddhists is totally contrary to Islamic morality.

vantage of the beautiful aspects in the world (apart from base and unlawful behavior), not to restrain themselves needlessly, nor to inflict pain upon themselves. For this reason, God revealed (Qur'an, 7: 157) that the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) had "relieved his followers of their chains":

> **Those who follow the Messenger, the Ummi, whom they find written down with them in the Torah and the Gospel, commanding them to do right and forbidding them to do wrong, making good things lawful for them and bad things unlawful for them, relieving them of their heavy loads and the chains which were around them. Those who believe in him and honor him and help him, and follow the Light that has been sent down with him, they are the ones who are successful.**

In short, Islam is a liberating religion that saves people from useless customs and prohibitions, social pressures and worries about what other people may think. It calls them to lead calm, peaceful lives with the purpose of gaining God's approval. So it is that our Prophet (may God bless him and grant him peace), in many of his sayings, advises us to make religion simple and easy.

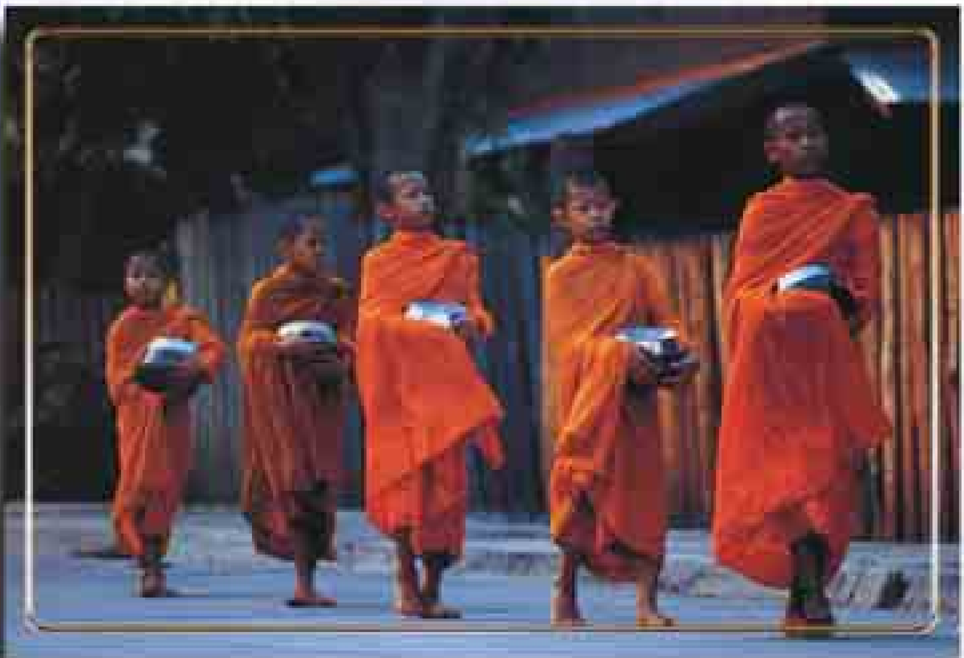
> *"Make things easy for the people, and do not make it difficult for them, and make them calm (with glad tidings) and do not repulse (them)."*[1]

> *"You have been sent to make things easy (for the people) and you have not been sent to make things difficult for them."*[2]

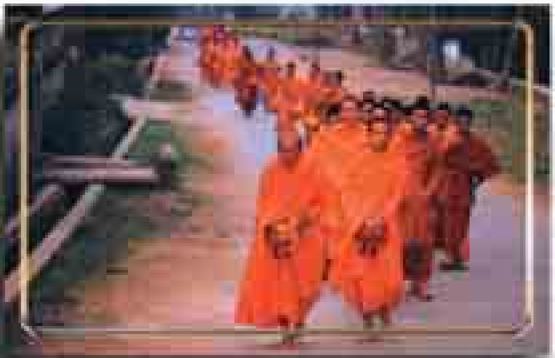
Buddhism enslaves its devotees in misty monasteries and forces them into a life of suffering and poverty. Strangely, it discourages good food, cleanliness, comfort—the blessings that God has created for human beings—accepts suffering as a virtue and advises its devotees to lead a miserable life.

This picture shows Buddha and his followers, bowls in their hands, accepting offerings. These irrational Buddhist traditions continue today. Those who fall into Buddhist perversity, are obliged to beg, even though they have no need, and be humiliated. Instead of working for a living, Buddhism leads people into laziness and indolence, condemning them to primitive living conditions. But Islam enjoins exactly the opposite—a vigorous religion that makes its believers dynamic and directs them to do useful work. In contrast to the dark atmosphere of Buddhism, Islam enjoins cleanliness, courtesy, and fruitful labor and encourages the development of science and technology.



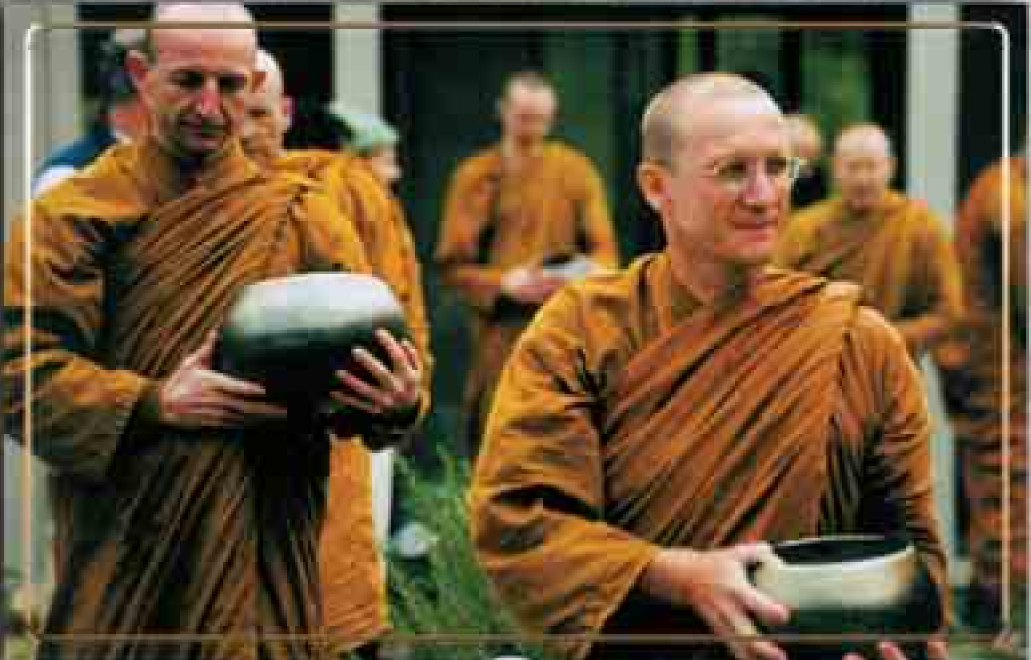






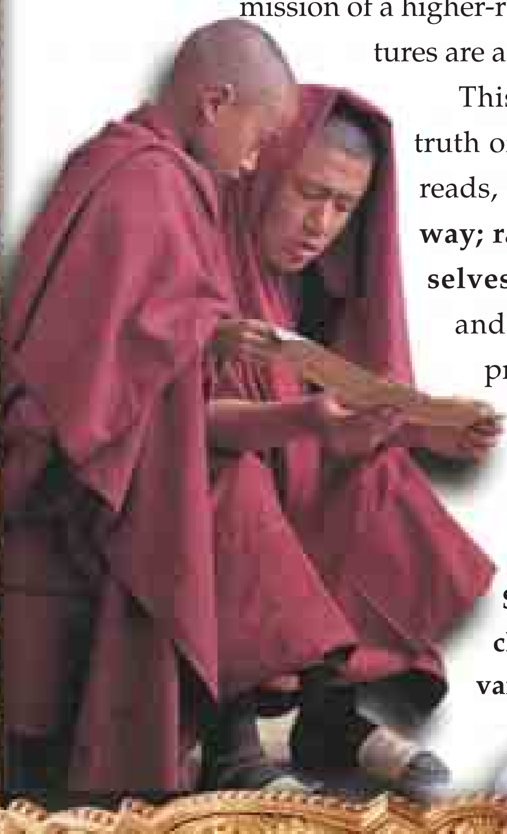
Those who are not priests nevertheless assist priests in the collection of offerings, believing that they will gain merits for a future life. Buddhist priests walk the streets early in the mornings, with bowls in their hands, accepting offerings from the people. But this superstitious practice, done in the name of worship will do them no good in this world or the next, unless God wills otherwise.





For Buddhist monks and nuns, life is full of all kinds of difficulties. They are forbidden to work or own property, obliged to feed themselves by going from door to door and begging among the people, with their bowls in their hands. For this reason, Buddhist priests are even called *bhikkhus* (beggars) by the people. Buddhist priests are forbidden to marry or have any kind of family life; they may own only one robe, which must be of poor quality yellow or red cloth.

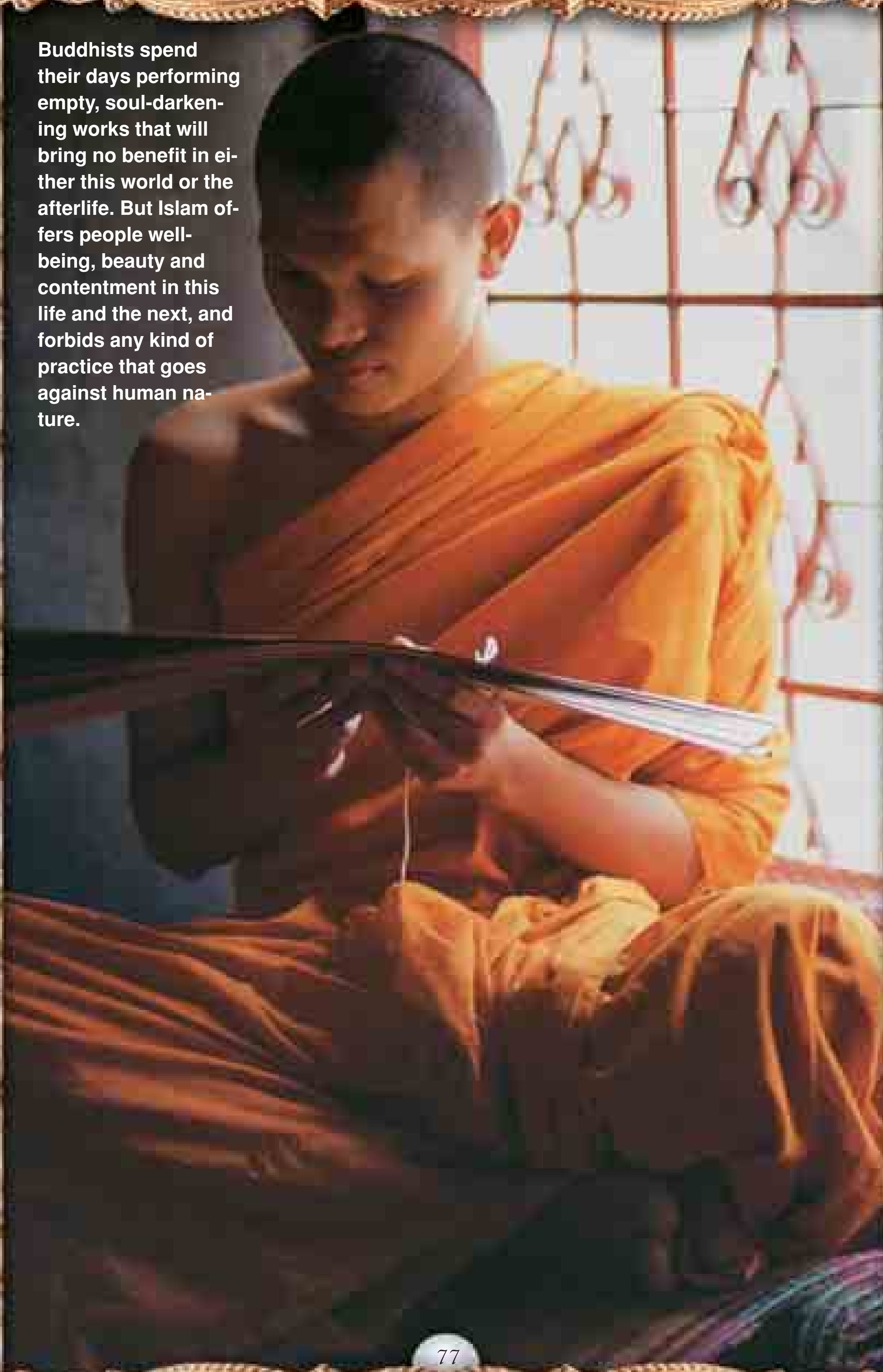
Besides this robe, their only other possessions include a hard bed to sleep on, a razor to shave their heads with, a needle case for their own use, a water bottle and a bowl to beg with. They eat only one meal a day, generally consisting of bread and rice flavored with spices, and drink either water or rice milk. They must finish this food before noon and are not allowed to eat anything until the next day. Other foods, even medicines, are regarded as forbidden luxuries. A priest may eat meat, fish or vegetables only if he is sick and then, only with the permission of a higher-ranking priest. In short, Buddhist strictures are a form of self-torture.



This situation is a manifestation of the truth of the verse in the Qur'an (10: 44) that reads, **"God does not wrong people in any way; rather it is people who wrong themselves."** But to those who believe in Him and submit themselves to Him, God promises a very good life, both in this world and the world to come. To them belong both the blessings of this world and those of the afterlife.

According to the Qur'an (7: 32):

Say: "Who has forbidden the fine clothing God has produced for His servants and the good kinds of provision?"



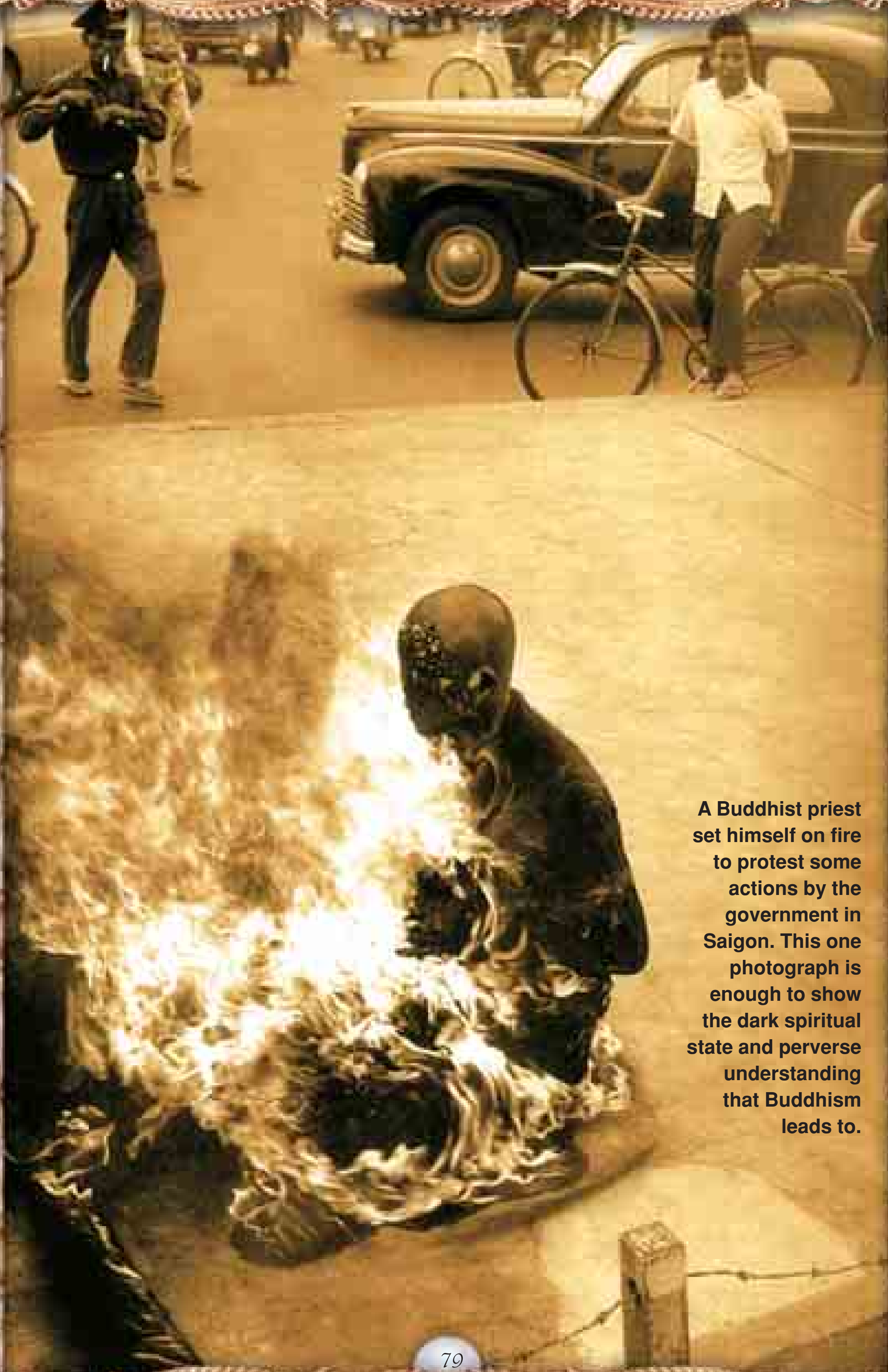
Buddhists spend their days performing empty, soul-darkening works that will bring no benefit in either this world or the afterlife. But Islam offers people well-being, beauty and contentment in this life and the next, and forbids any kind of practice that goes against human nature.

Say: "On the Day of Rising, such things will be exclusively for those who believed during their life in this world." In this way, We make the Signs clear for people who know.

Another dark aspect of Buddhism is its pessimism. The "nirvana" it promises to its believers is nothing less than a schizophrenic breaking of all connections with life by a melancholic mind that takes a dim view of the world. *The Catholic Encyclopedia* describes this aspect of Buddhism in these words:

> Another fatal defect of Buddhism is its false pessimism. A strong and healthy mind revolts against the morbid view that life is not worth living, that every form of conscious existence is an evil. Buddhism stands condemned by the voice of nature the dominant tone of which is hope and joy. It is a protest against nature for possessing the perfection of rational life. The highest ambition of Buddhism is to destroy that perfection by bringing all living beings to the unconscious repose of Nirvana. Buddhism is thus guilty of a capital crime against nature, and in consequence does injustice to the individual. All legitimate desires must be repressed. Innocent recreations are condemned. The cultivation of music is forbidden. Researches in natural science are discountenanced. The development of the mind is limited to the memorizing of Buddhist texts and the study of Buddhist metaphysics, only a minimum of which is of any value. The Buddhist ideal on earth is a state of passive indifference to everything.[3]

Islam does not make its adherents indifferent; on the contrary, it calls them to liveliness, activity, and joy. All those who adopt the teachings of Islam are very sensitive to what goes on around them. They do not regard the world as Buddhism does, as chaos to avert the eyes from, but as a testing place—an arena in which they can put the high moral teachings of the Qur'an into practice. For this reason, Islamic history is full of just and successful leaders who ensured com-



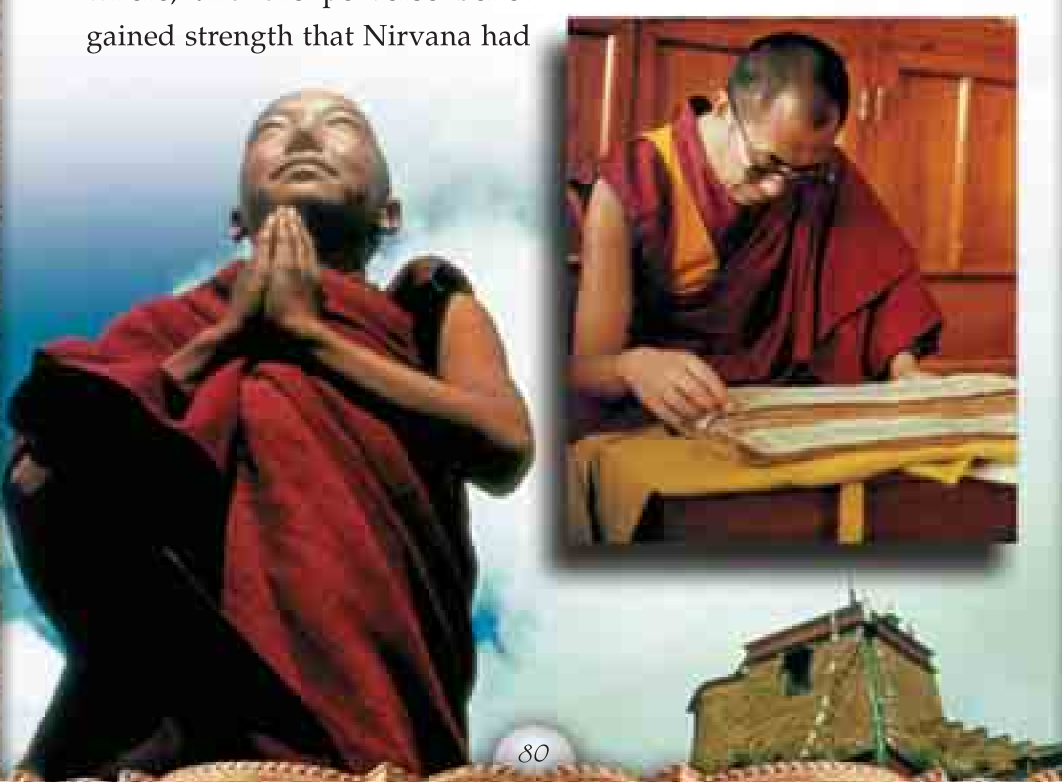
A Buddhist priest set himself on fire to protest some actions by the government in Saigon. This one photograph is enough to show the dark spiritual state and perverse understanding that Buddhism leads to.

fortable and happy lives for their people. In sharp contrast, Buddhism produces only wretched adherents who cause themselves suffering, drag themselves and others into passivity and poverty, and whose only solution to the problems they encounter is to immolate themselves. This is one of the biggest games that Satan plays with people.

A Pagan Religion

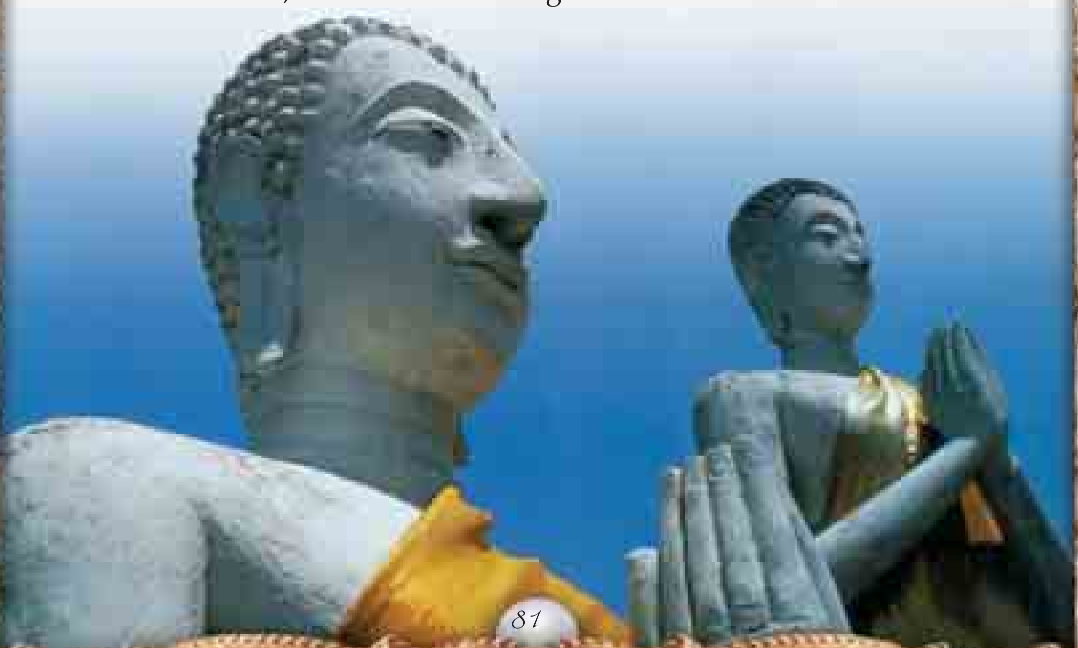
Buddhism is a pagan religion, inasmuch as it worships idols. It is said that today's Buddhism has been divided into different schools, and that worship of Buddha characterizes only some of them. But even to accept Buddhism as an infallible guide—an error that all schools of Buddhism fall into—is an indication that this religion views Buddha as a god.

According to historical sources, Buddhist priests began to deify Buddha shortly after his death. Statues of him were erected everywhere, and the perverse belief gained strength that Nirvana had





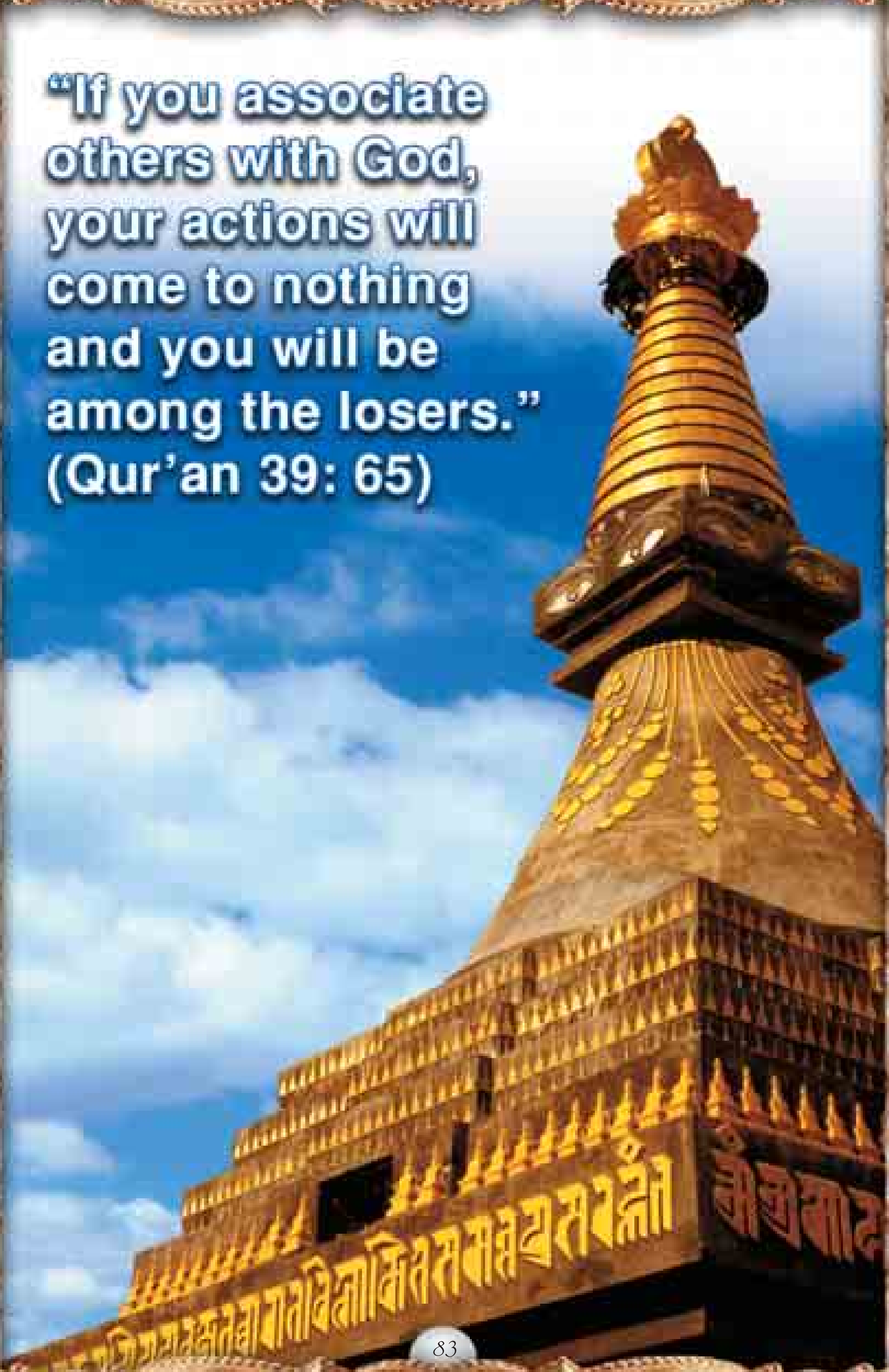
actually taken shape in his body and was embodied in these statues. The excessive respect that Buddhist priests paid to Buddha later turned into outright worship. Today, giant statues of him adorn every country where Buddhism is the dominant religion. In many countries from Asia to America, you can see statues and temples with Buddha's eyes painted on them—again, suggesting the message that Buddha sees everything and watches people constantly, and that they should be thinking of him every minute of their lives. Clearly, it's a completely untenable belief that someone who died thousands of years ago can still see those who believe in him, protect them, and listen to their prayers. The basic truth that Buddhists are unable to grasp is that God, Lord of all the Worlds, Who encompasses everything and knows the deepest hidden secrets of all things, created Buddha, like all human beings.





Above: The eyes painted on some temples represent Buddha's eyes, which supposedly see everything. This kind of temple, statues of Buddha and painted eyes are frequently seen in countries where Buddhism has been widely accepted, clearly showing how Buddhism has made Buddha into an idol.
Right: Samye monastery is one of Tibet's most famous temples, where Buddhists spin their prayer cylinders and say their prayers. Ceremonies performed by the priests sometime last all day. But Buddhists ignore the fact that Buddha will not hear them or answer their prayers. Like all human beings, Gautama was a powerless servant whom God created; only God can answer prayers:
"The call of truth is made to Him alone. Those they call upon apart from Him do not respond to them at all. It is like someone stretching out his cupped hands towards water to convey it to his mouth: it will never get there. The call of the unbelievers only goes astray." (Qur'an, 13: 14)

“If you associate others with God, your actions will come to nothing and you will be among the losers.”
(Qur’an 39: 65)



Belief in Karma

The doctrine of karma supposes that everything a person does will have its effect on him sooner or later, and will have a bearing on his so-called next incarnation. According to this belief, people are continually reborn into this world, where they must bear the consequences in that later life of what they did in a former one. Buddhism denies the existence of God and believes that karma is the unique power that governs everything.

Karma is a Sanskrit word that means "act," and refers to the law of cause and effect. According to those who believe in it, a person will experience in the future what he has done in the past, for good or ill. The past is one's former life; the future is supposed to be a new life they will begin after death. According to this belief, anyone who is poor in this life is paying with his poverty the price for evil that he committed in some former life. This superstitious belief also claims that in a later life, an evil person may be "demoted" to rebirth as an animal or even a plant.

One harmful result of believing in karma is that it teaches that present helplessness, poverty and weakness are punishments for a person's moral evils. According to this belief system, if a person is disabled, it's because he has inflicted a similar injury on someone else in a former life and therefore deserves it. This superstitious belief is the main reason why the unjust social structure of the caste system dominated India for so many centuries. (It must be remembered that karma is a Hindu idea, and Buddhism actually arose from Hinduism.) Because the caste system was based on karma, the poor, sick and disabled within India were despised and oppressed. The wealthy high-caste ruling class regarded their own privileges as natural and just.

In Islam, however, being weak is not a retribution; it is accepted as a test from God. Furthermore, other people have the very important duty of helping those who are in need. For this reason, Islam—

like Judaism and Christianity, other religions based on divine revelation but that were later altered—has a very strong sense of social justice. But karma-based religions like Buddhism and Hinduism tolerate inequality and pose a great obstacle to social progress.

Karma is based on the belief in reincarnation: the idea that people come back into the world with the same spirit but in a different body. This idea of a "wheel of rebirth" supposes that every life influences a subsequent one. But this belief fails with one sin-



According to the theory of karma, those who are poor, handicapped or ill are paying the price for evil deeds committed in a previous life. Therefore, they deserve their present misfortunes. This perverse understanding results in prevalent injustices in societies where belief in karma is widespread.

gle question: how does this karma operate? If Buddhism doesn't accept the existence of God, then who judges a person's former life and sends him back into the world in a new body? This question has no answer! Buddhists believe that karma is a "natural law" that functions by itself, spontaneously, like gravity or thermodynamics. However, it is God Who created all natural laws. No natural law observes what people do throughout their lives, keeps an account, and judges them after death on that basis. No natural law determines, as a result of this judgment, what kind of new life a person will have and re-creates him accordingly; and no natural law imposes this process flawlessly on billions of people, much less animals. Clearly no such natural law exists, and so, neither can such a process exist.

So many people throughout the world believe in reincarnation, even though it has no logical basis, because they have no religious faith. Denying the existence of an infinite afterlife, they fear death and cling to the idea of reincarnation as a way to escape their fear. Belief in reincarnation—like belief in karma—is based in the false consolation that death is nothing to be feared, and that anyone will be able to attain his goals in a new birth.

If reincarnation can't occur on its own, as a natural law, then clearly it could exist only through a supernatural act of creation. But a look at the Qur'an tells us that reincarnation is a myth. The Book that God sent down as a guide to humanity openly declares that reincarnation is false.

Reincarnation According to Islam

As in every other matter, the Muslim point of view regarding to the philosophy of karma must be based on what God says in the Qur'an, which states there is only one birth and resurrection. Everyone lives only once on this earth, and then he dies. In verse 62: 8, our Lord gives the following command:

"Those who call on anything other than God are not really following their partner-gods. They are only following conjecture."
(Qur'an 10: 66)

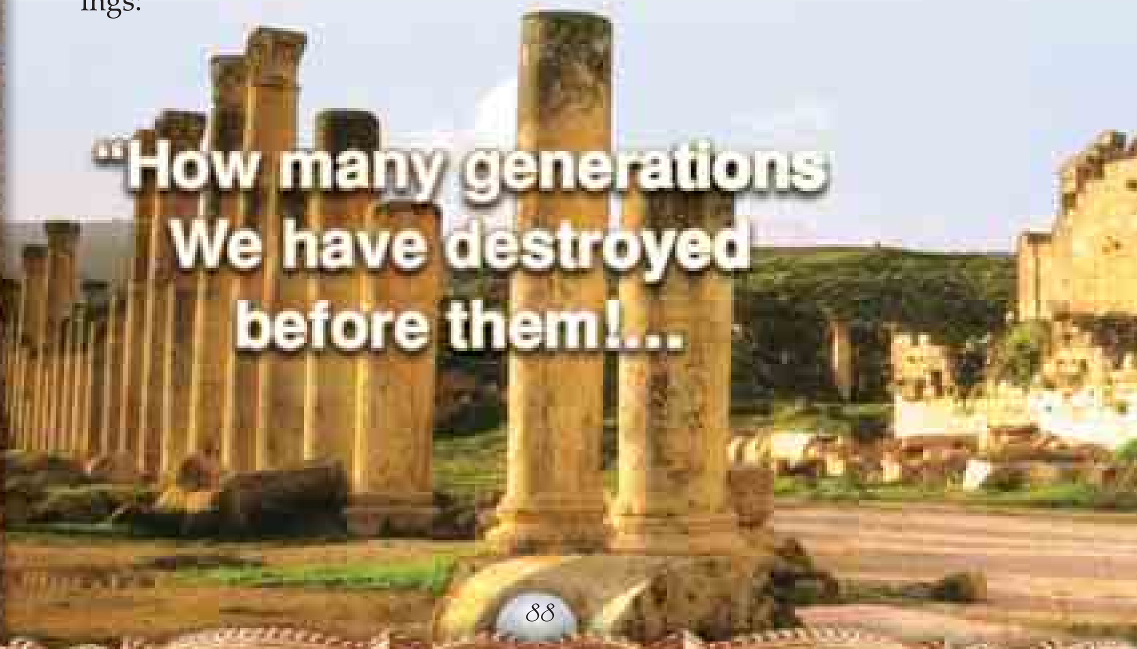


Death, from which you are fleeing, will certainly catch up with you. Then you will be returned to the Knower of the Unseen and the Visible and He will inform you about what you did.

A person is resurrected after death and, according to all the things he has done and the works he has performed, is rewarded with either eternal Paradise or endless Hell. That is to say, that a human being has one life in this world, and then an everlasting afterlife. God says very clearly in the Qur'an (21: 95) that after he has died, no one will return to this life: **"It is ordained that no nation We have destroyed shall ever rise again."** And similarly:

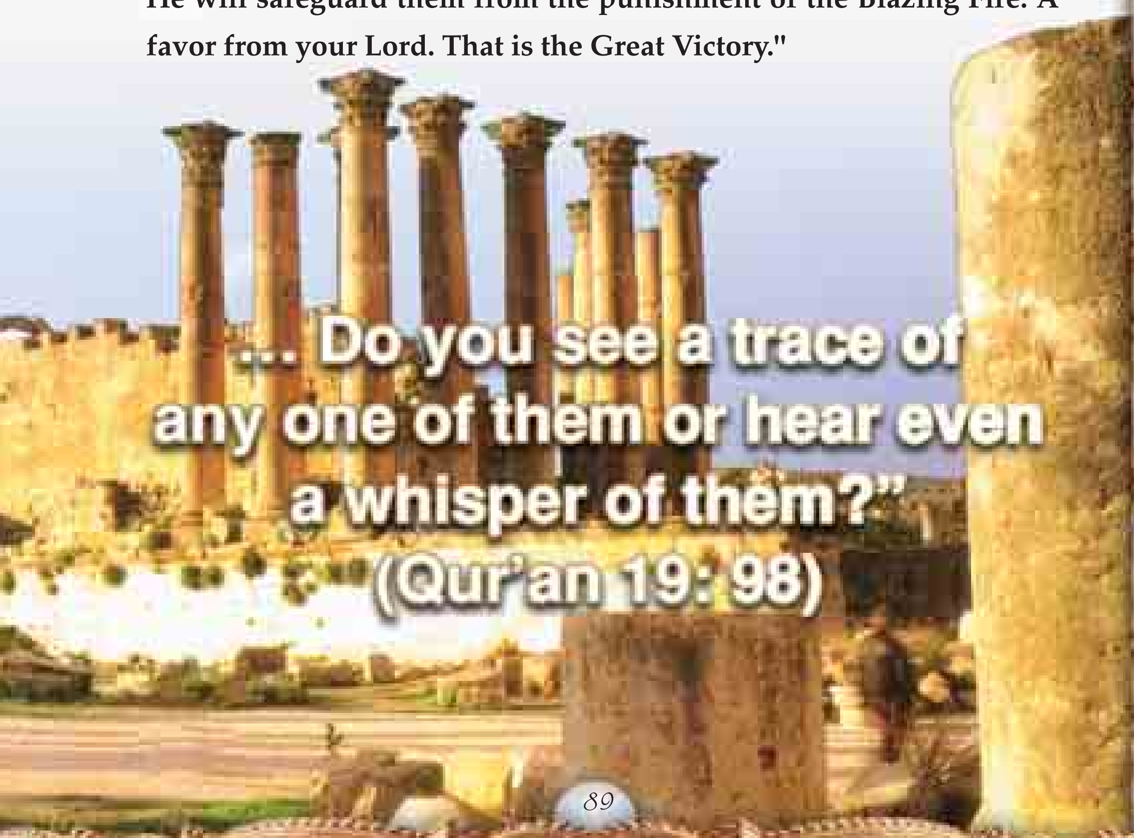
When death comes to one of them, he says, "My Lord, send me back again so that perhaps I may act rightly regarding the things I failed to do!" No indeed! It is just words he utters. Behind them is a barrier until the Day they are resurrected. (Qur'an, 23: 99-100)

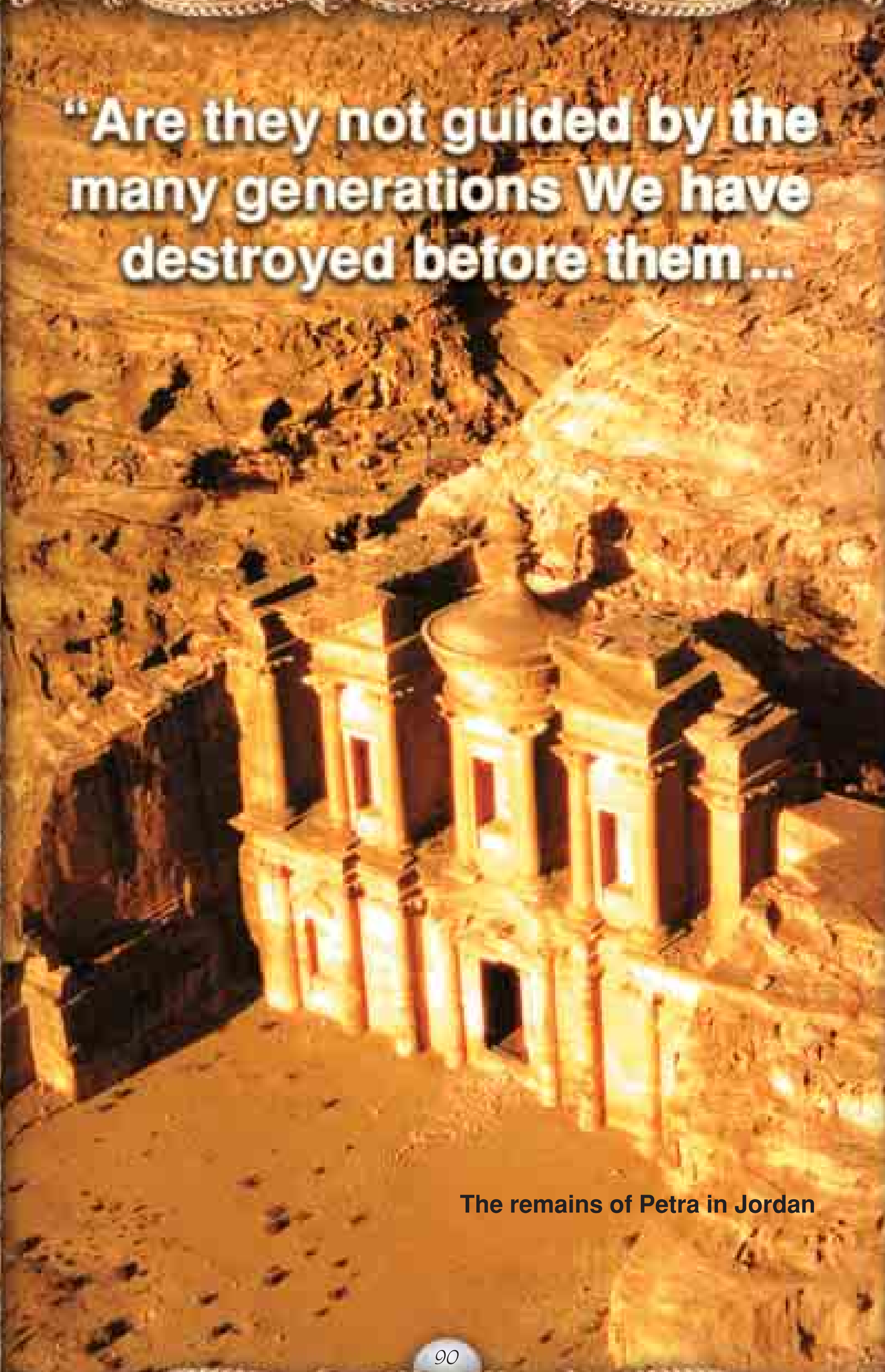
As these verses show, one part of humanity will die in the hopes of being reborn, but at the moment of their death, it will be revealed to them that this is absolutely impossible. In another verse in the Qur'an (2: 28), God says this about the death and resurrection of human beings:



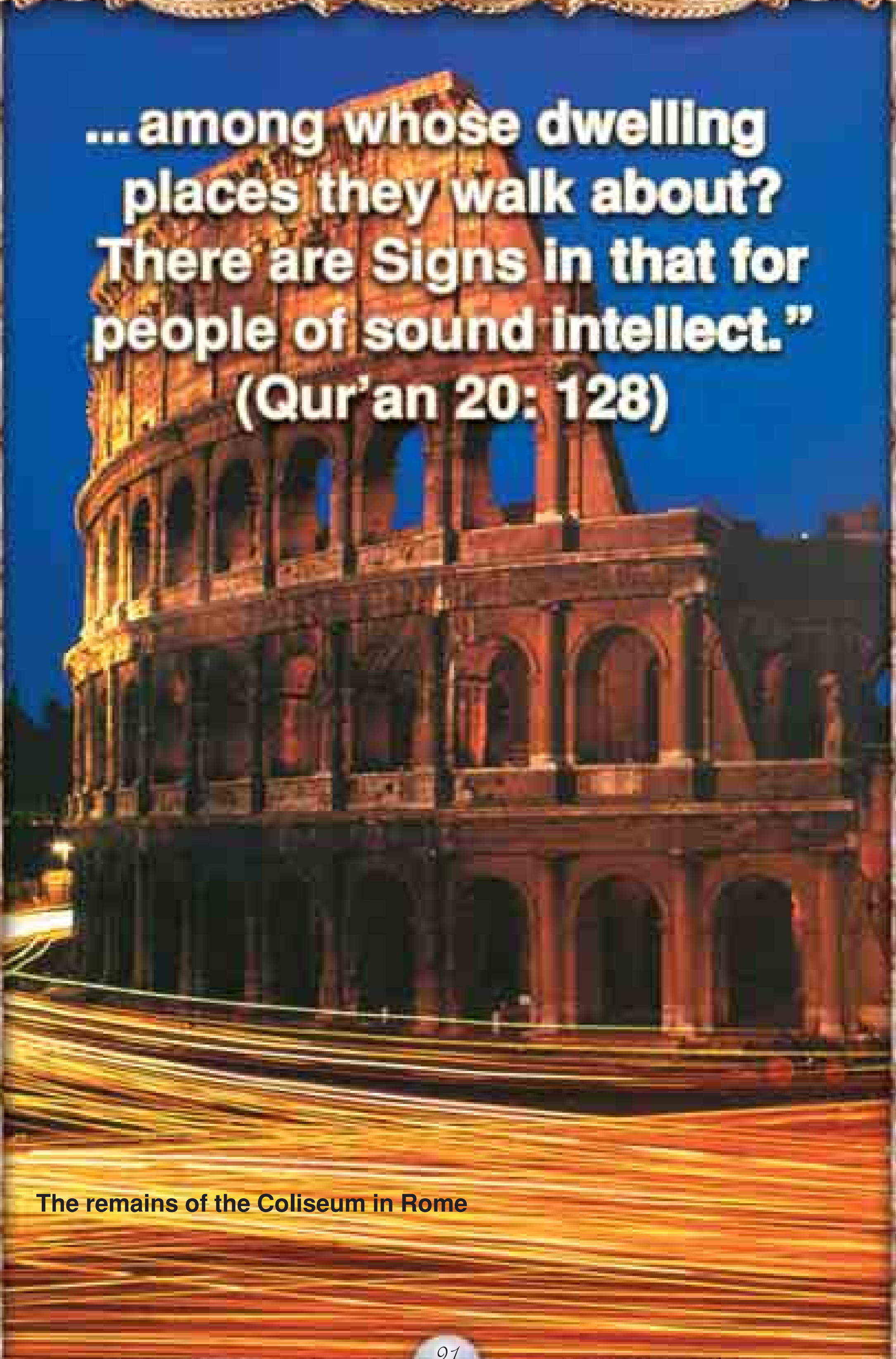
How can you reject God, when you were dead and then He gave you life, then He will make you die and then give you life again, then you will be returned to Him?

God says that every human being is dead to begin with; that is, he is created out of the basic inanimate elements of soil, water and mud. Then, God **"formed and proportioned"** this lifeless mass (Qur'an, 82: 7) and brought him to life. At a specific time after the individual has been brought to life, life comes to an end, and he dies. He returns to the earth and decays back into the soil, where he awaits the final resurrection. Everyone will be resurrected on the Last Day when, learning that another return to earth is not possible, he will give an account of all the actions he did in his life. In the Qur'an (44: 56-57), God says that after a human being has come into this world, he will experience only one death: **"They will not taste any death there—except for the first one. He will safeguard them from the punishment of the Blazing Fire. A favor from your Lord. That is the Great Victory."**





The remains of Petra in Jordan



The remains of the Coliseum in Rome

These verses make it clear that death occurs only once. No matter how much people want to overcome their fears of death and an everlasting afterlife and console themselves with false beliefs in karma and reincarnation, the reality is that they won't return to this world after they die. Everyone will die only once and, as God has willed, will have an endless life in the world to come. According to the good or the evil that individuals have done, they will either be rewarded with Paradise, or punished with Hell.

Eternally just, merciful and compassionate, God gives the perfect reward for what everyone has done. If a person seeks comfort in false beliefs because he fears death or the possibility of going to Hell, he will experience certain ruin. Anyone who has intelligent awareness, conscience, and fears in this regard must turn to God with a sincere heart if he hopes to escape the pains of Hell and attain Paradise. He must conform his life to the Qur'an, the true guide for humanity.

Never yet has being old or young, beautiful or rich been able to prevent anyone from dying; and so, no one can disregard death's reality. Whether people disregard that reality or not, it is something they can never avoid.

The throes of death come revealing the truth. That is what you were trying to evade! (Qur'an, 50: 19)

Reading these lines, you may be led to consider the closeness of death. Perhaps death is closer to you than to others; and you may die before you finish reading this book. It may come for no apparent reason, with no illness, accident or age-related cause. God will send the Angel of Death to come at the hour of your departure and take your soul.

We must always keep this important fact in mind and never postpone making preparations for death. The Qur'an (63: 11) reminds us that **"God will not give anyone more time, once their time has come."** Here, God tells us that death cannot be postponed, and He speaks of the sorrow of an individual who meets it:



Give from what We have provided for you before death comes to one of you and he says, "My Lord, if only you would give me a little more time so that I would give charity and be among the righteous!" God will not give anyone more time, once their time has come. God is aware of what you do. (Qur'an, 63:10-11)

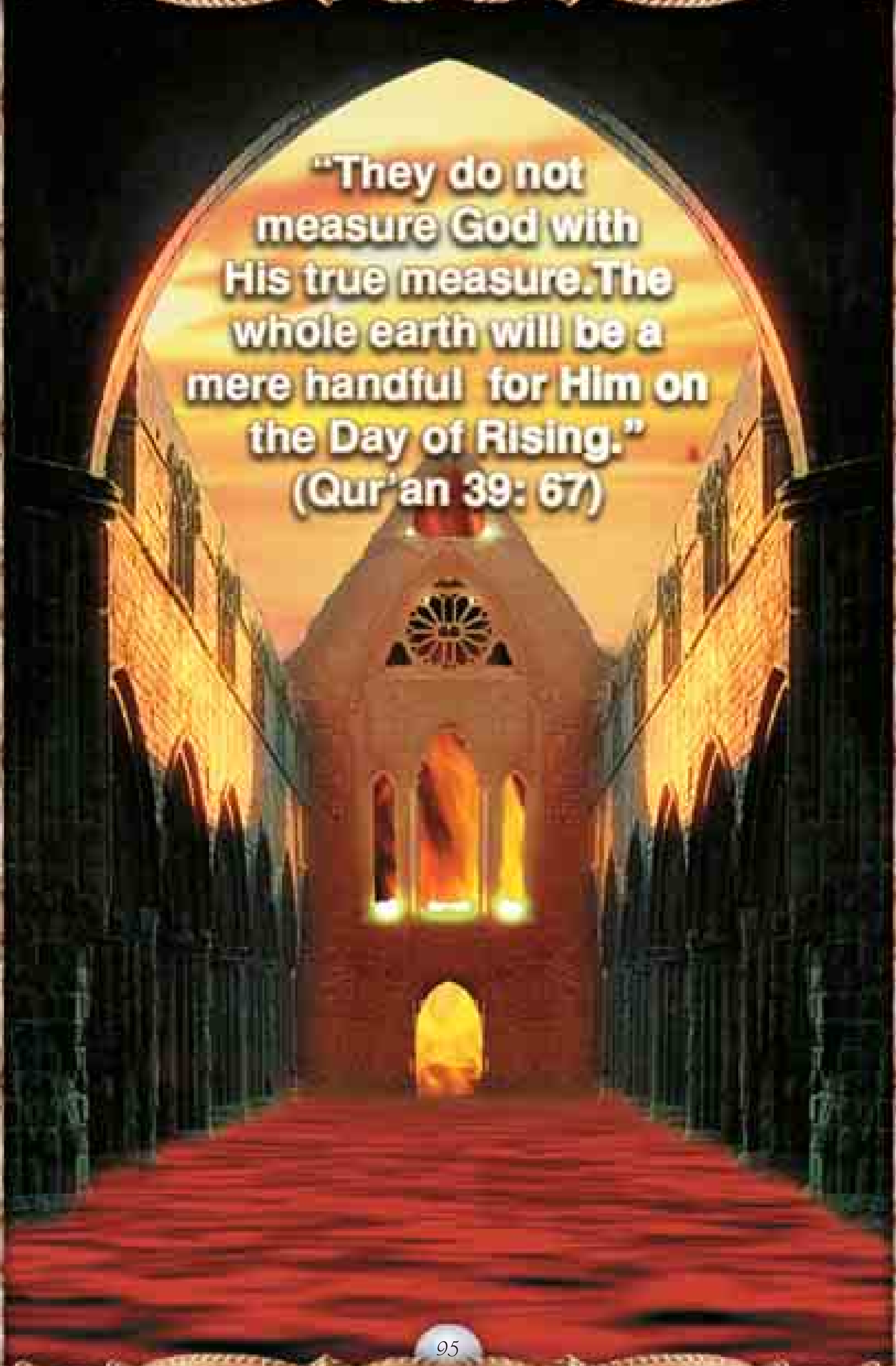
Buddhism's Misguided Belief About the Afterlife

Buddhism's belief in karma leaves no room for belief in the eternal afterlife, Paradise or Hell. This false and perverse position —the idea that an individual returns into the world after each death, continually—conflicts with what God has revealed in the Qur'an. In *The Religions of India*, Edward Washburn Hopkins, a professor of Sanskrit and Comparative Philology, explains that Buddhism does not believe in an afterlife:

> . . . The logic of his own system led Buddha into a formal and complete pessimism, which denies an after-life to the man that finds no happiness in this . . . In his talks with his questioners and disciples, he uses all means to evade direct inquiry in regard to the fate of man after death. He believed that Nirvana (extinction of lust) led to cessation of being; he did not believe in an immortal soul... What he urged repeatedly was that every one accepting the undisputed doctrine of *karma* or re-birth in its full extent (i.e., that for every sin here, punishment followed in the next existence), should endeavor to escape, if possible, from such an endless course of painful re-births. . .[4]

From some Buddhist writings, one can glean the following information on the afterlife:

> Whether one is reborn in Heaven or in one of the various levels of Hell, the forms of existence in these places are transitory, as they are on earth, and are not eternal. As in Hinduism, the period of time during which . . . individuals remain in these places depends on the


"They do not measure God with His true measure.The whole earth will be a mere handful for Him on the Day of Rising."
(Qur'an 39: 67)

> amount of good and evil they have done while on earth. When the prescribed time has been completed, they will return to earth again. Heaven and Hell are no more than temporary states of existence in which the individuals receive their reward for the acts they have committed while on earth.[5]

Buddhism teaches that there is a kind of Paradise and Hell, as a reward and punishment for what a person has done. But because this belief does not stem from a revealed religion, it contains many contradictions and illogicalities. Above all, and contrary to what God has revealed in the Qur'an, Buddhism believes that Paradise and Hell are only transitory.

Again, one of this belief's most illogical aspects is the idea that all systems in the world operate, in effect, by themselves. According to Buddhism, just as the existence of the universe and human beings is uncontrolled, so is the cycle of death and re-birth. There is no room in this belief for a Creator Who has brought into existence the world and the life upon it, together with Paradise and Hell, and rewards human beings for what they have done. However, accepting the existence of Paradise and Hell as places where reward and punishment are given, but not explaining how these realms were created, is an extremely illogical, unacceptable claim.

But who deals out the rewards and punishments? Moreover, how were these realms created? The philosophy of karma claims no account of how Paradise and Hell could have come into being without a Creator. This superstitious belief has been passed down from generation to generation, without ever being questioned or logically explained. Buddhism has no logical explanation for the existence of the universe or how it functions, nor of the origin of the flawless creative art evident in all living things. For this reason, Buddhism can



According to superstitious Buddhist beliefs, the existence of the universe, human beings, death and rebirth are all uncontrolled processes. Those who believe in this irrational claim are spiritually unbalanced. They live in tension and discomfort that comes from the frightening idea that everything in the world is arbitrary. But Islam teaches that God controls everything that happens in the universe. Those who understand this trust God at every moment, living in the joyous comfort of His support and protection.

never presume to be more than a mystical movement with no basis in logic, supported only by myths.

The Reality Awaiting Us in the Hereafter

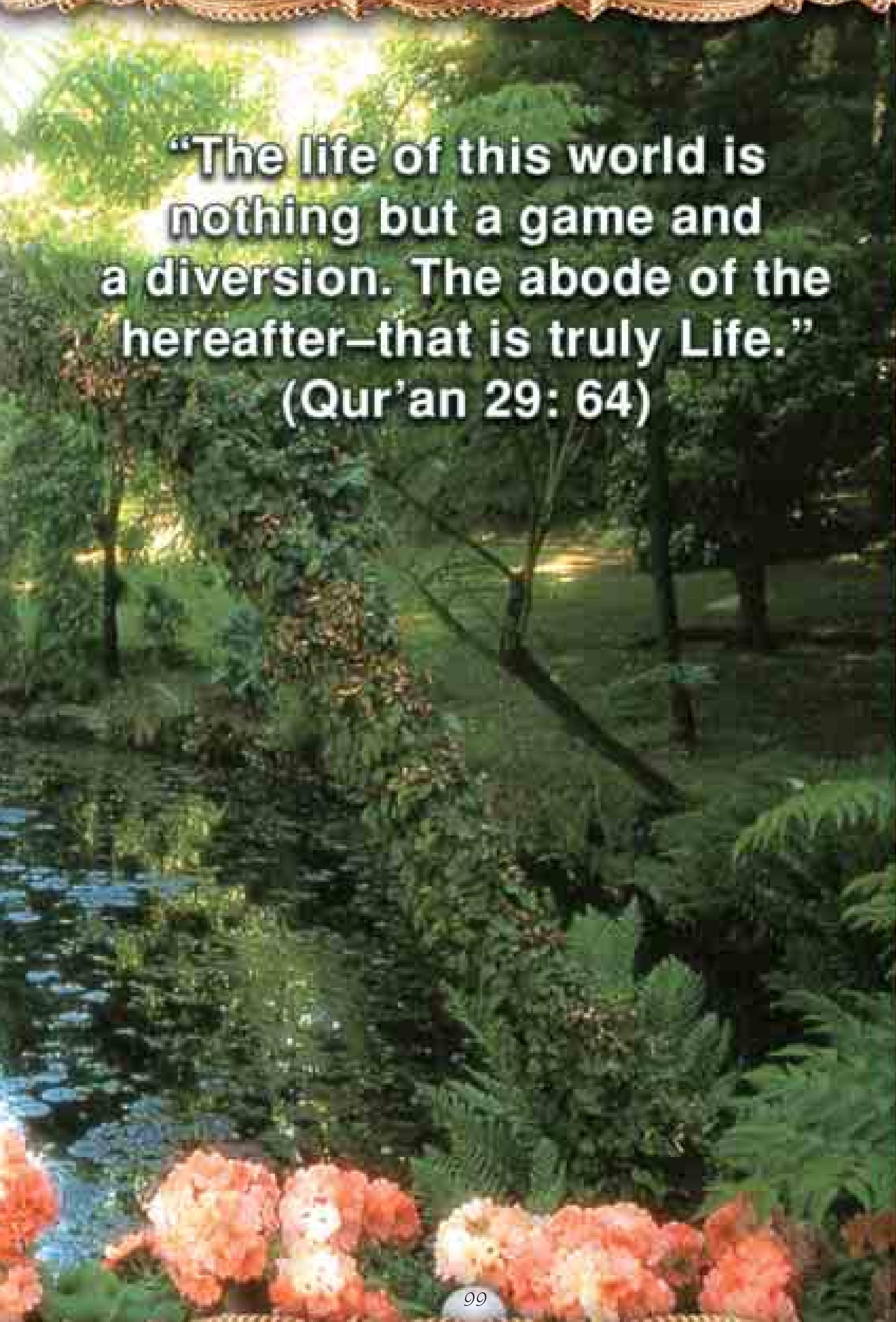
The only source where we can learn the facts about life in this world and belief in the afterlife is the Qur'an, sent down as a guide for human beings and the teachings (Sunnah) of the Prophet (may God bless him and grant him peace).

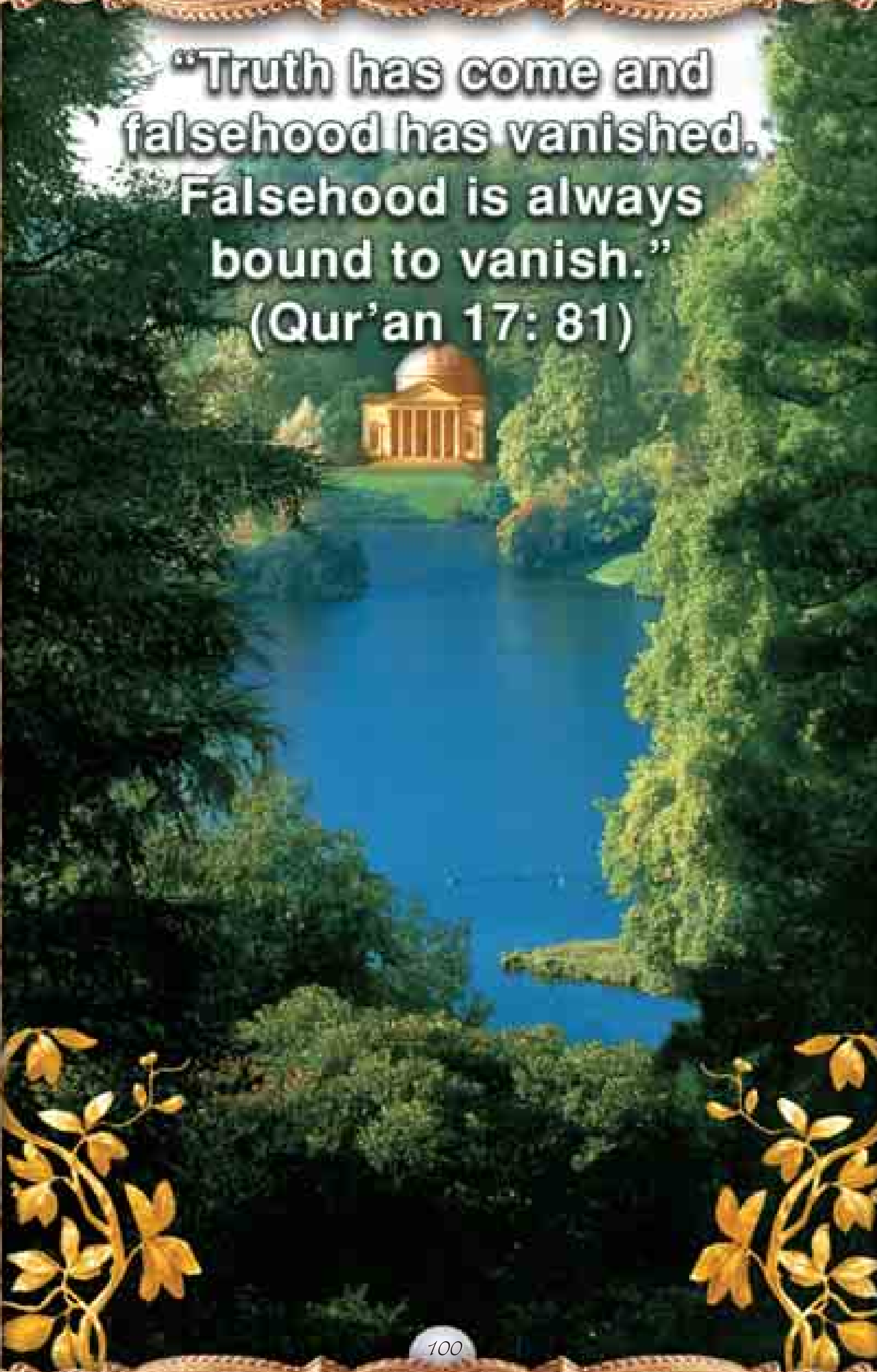
God says in the Qur'an that life in this world is a temporary testing period for everyone, and that the afterlife is our eternal homeland. Everyone will have a reward in Paradise or Hell for all the deeds he has done over the lifetime he has spent in this world. God reveals this truth in these words (Qur'an, 6: 32):

The life of this world is nothing but a game and a diversion. The hereafter is better for those who do their duty. So will you not use your intellect?



"The life of this world is nothing but a game and a diversion. The abode of the hereafter–that is truly Life."
(Qur'an 29: 64)




"Truth has come and
falsehood has vanished.
Falsehood is always
bound to vanish."
(Qur'an 17: 81)

Someone who submits to God, conforming his life to the true guide He has sent down and to the teachings of the Prophet (may God bless him and grant him peace), believes with all his heart that on the Last Day, he will account for all for his deeds—and will receive the reward in eternal Paradise or endless Hell. God has revealed this to humanity in the books He has sent down and the prophets He has chosen. But Buddhism is a man-made doctrine, built through hearsay on the foundation of a philosophy propounded by one single man.

Using human reasoning to change what has come from God is a serious error. Those who get their heads full of half-baked ideas about the Buddhist way and, in their desire to imitate their favorite pop musicians or film stars, start to follow Buddhism as a fad, should consider this and free themselves from their mistake.

In the Qur'an, God reveals the state of those who say there in no afterlife:

> **As for those who denied Our Signs and the encounter of the hereafter, their actions will come to nothing. Will they be repaid except for what they did? (Qur'an, 7: 147)**

> **But as for those who did not believe and denied Our Signs and meeting in the hereafter, they will be summoned to the punishment (Qur'an, 30: 16).**

The "repayment" and "punishment" mentioned in these verses will begin at the moment of death. Those who realize what an error they had been living during their earthly lives will feel unrepentable sorrow:

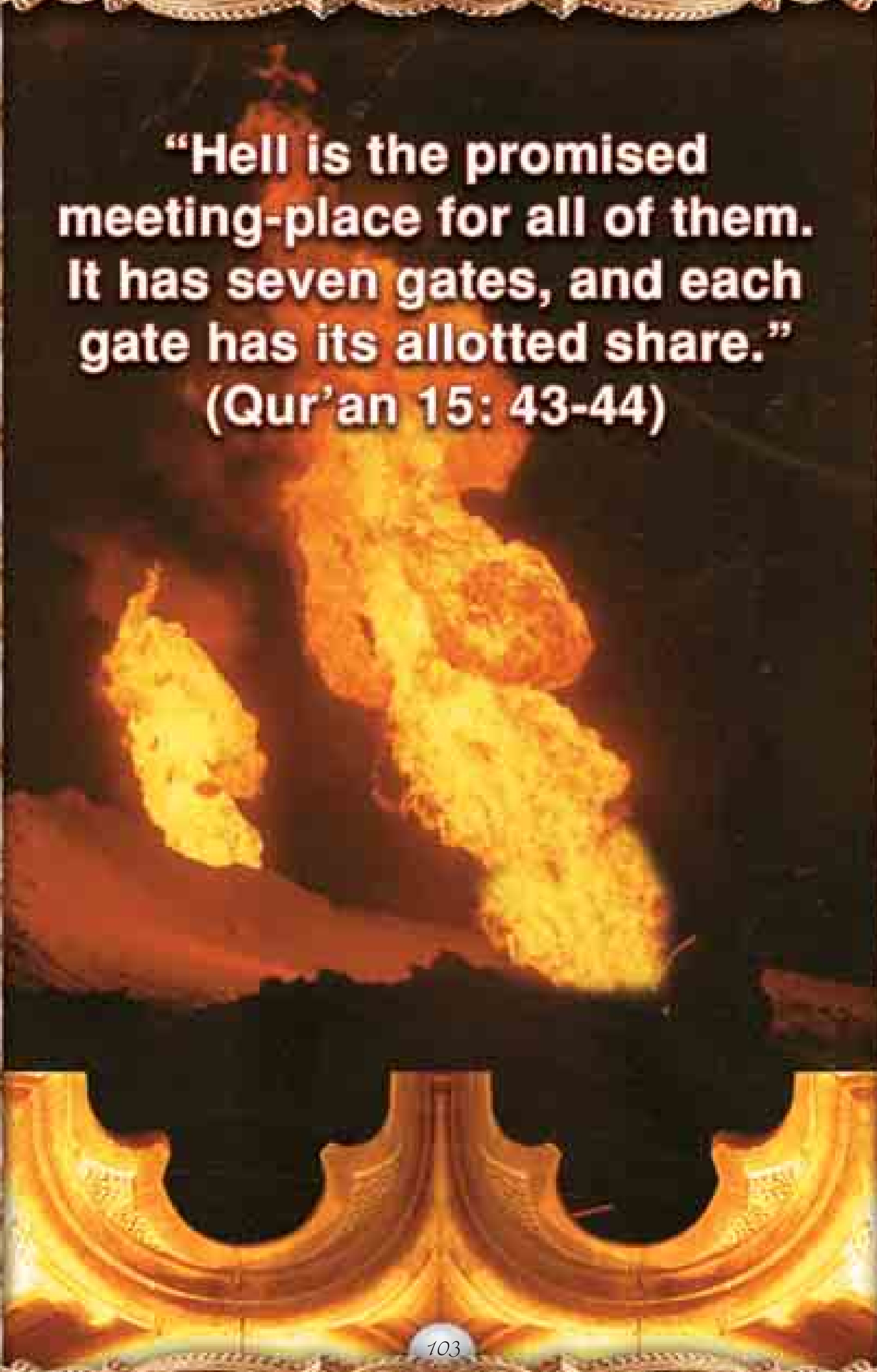
> **If only you could see when they are standing before the Fire and saying, "Oh! If only we could be sent back again, we would not deny the Signs of our Lord and we would be among the believers." (Qur'an, 6: 27)**

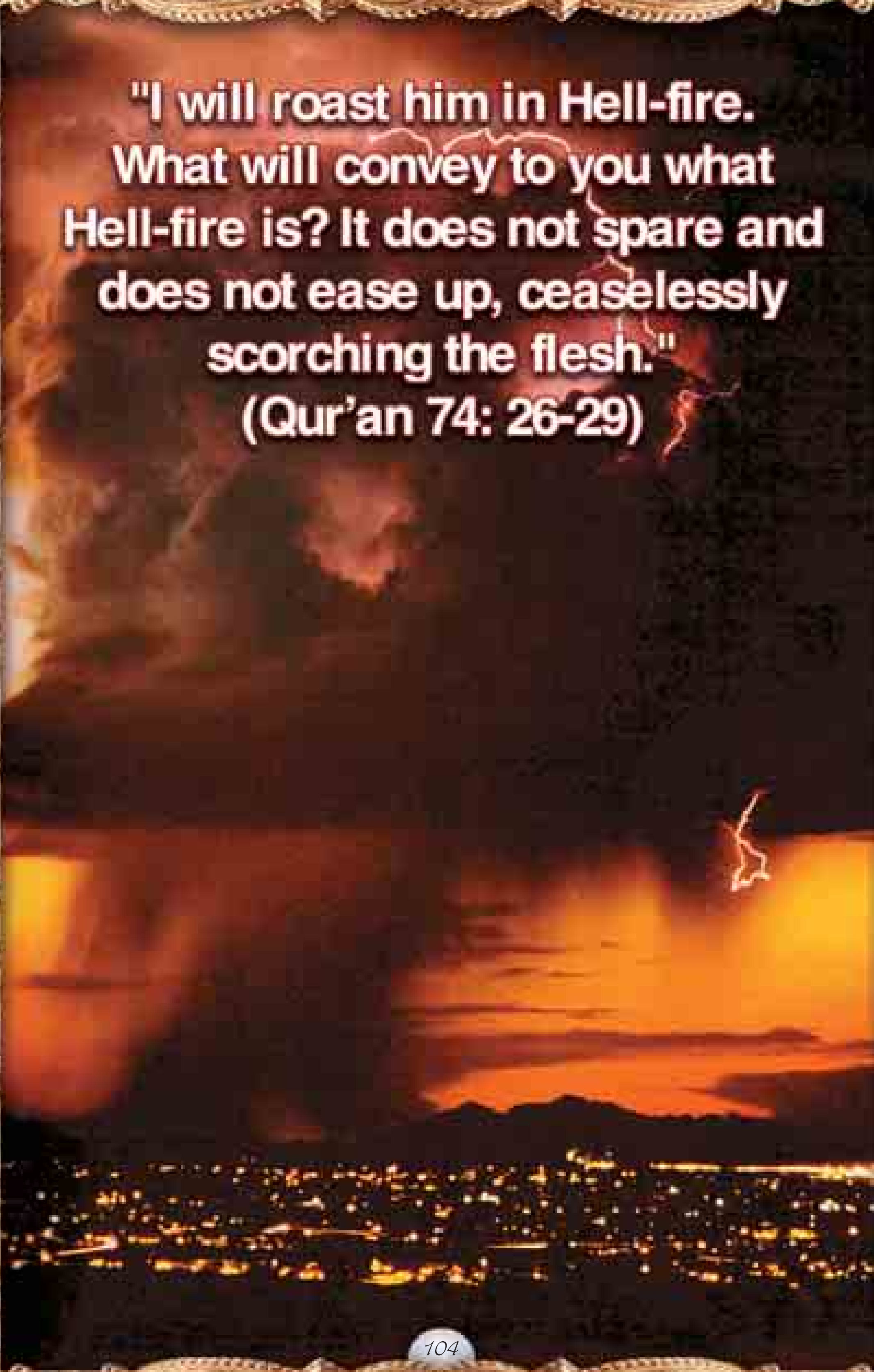
If only you could see the evildoers hanging their heads in shame before their Lord: "Our Lord, we have seen and we have heard, so send us back again and we will act rightly. Truly we now have certainty." (Qur'an, 32: 12)

However much they may beg and ask for forgiveness, they will begin an afterlife full of agony from which there is no escape, much less a return. Their repentance will not be accepted, and never will their desire to return to the world be fulfilled. Though warned many times, the godless who did not believe—and bowed themselves before statues of stone and wood that they associated with God; who espoused vain philosophies only as a show to attract the interest of others; who did not fear God as they should have—will enter unending humiliation from the moment they meet the Angel of Death. Their souls will be taken with blows to their back and sides, they will be grabbed by the forelock and be thrown into Hell; this will be the beginning of their afterlife.

God will not allow them to speak, and their voices will be no louder than a whisper. (Qur'an, 20: 108) Hell will be the final place for all those godless people who exalted themselves before God, did not believe in the resurrection or the afterlife, were rebellious despite the warnings and did not lead a moral life. The people of Hell, **"shackled together in chains"** (Qur'an, 25: 13), will be jammed into **"a sealed vault of Fire"** (Qur'an, 90: 20) and live in the murk of thick black smoke. They will hear the fire gasping harshly as it seethes and find people moaning in it. Their endless pain will never be relieved, despite their entreaties, causing them indescribable anxiety.

Physically, the denizens of Hell will have a terrible appearance. They will be bound with shackles and chains, and their eyes will be downcast, darkened by debasement. A scorching wind will burn their


"Hell is the promised meeting-place for all of them. It has seven gates, and each gate has its allotted share."
(Qur'an 15: 43-44)



"I will roast him in Hell-fire. What will convey to you what Hell-fire is? It does not spare and does not ease up, ceaselessly scorching the flesh."
(Qur'an 74: 26-29)

skin, which will be continually replaced to burn yet again, as God describes in verse 4: 56, **"Every time their skins are burned off, We will replace them with new skins."** They will be beaten with cudgels made of iron and bound in **"a chain which is seventy cubits long"** (Qur'an, 69: 32). Their foreheads, sides and backs will be branded with the fire. Boiling water will be poured over their heads, and they will be wearing shirts of tar.

The Qur'an also tells about the terrible food and drink reserved for those in Hell. God announces in verse 69: 36 that they will have **"no food except exuding pus"** to eat—which people in this world can hardly stand. In the Hell they have entered for forgetting God and pursuing their own passions in this life, they will be made to drink boiling water mixed with pus. And because nothing will pass through their torn throats, they will not be able to swallow. In Hell, God will also make the sinners eat bitter thorny bush and zaqqum (the infernal tree):

> **The Tree of az-Zaqqum is the food of the wicked, seething in the belly like molten brass, as boiling water bubbles and seethes. (Qur'an, 44: 43-45)**

As for those who believe in God and turn to Him, they will not be condemned to this state, but will pass through an easy accounting. Because they did not follow vain philosophies and, in order to please God and fearing the torments of Hell, lived according to the Qur'an, they will receive their eternal reward and be welcomed in Paradise, free from fear, sorrow and sadness. On that day, God says, the faces of believers will be radiant. As God says in the Qur'an (39: 71-73):

> **The unbelievers will be driven to Hell in companies and when they arrive there and its gates are opened its custodians will say to them, "Did Messengers from yourselves not come to you, reciting**

your Lord's Signs to you and warning you about meeting [Him] on this Day of yours?" They will say, "Indeed they did!" But the sentence about torment will [already] have fallen due upon the deniers of the truth. They will be told, "Enter the gates of Hell and stay there timelessly, for ever. How evil is the abode of the arrogant!" And those who heeded their Lord will be driven to the Garden in companies, and when they arrive there, finding its gates open, its custodians will say to them, "Peace be upon you! You have done well so enter it timelessly, for ever."

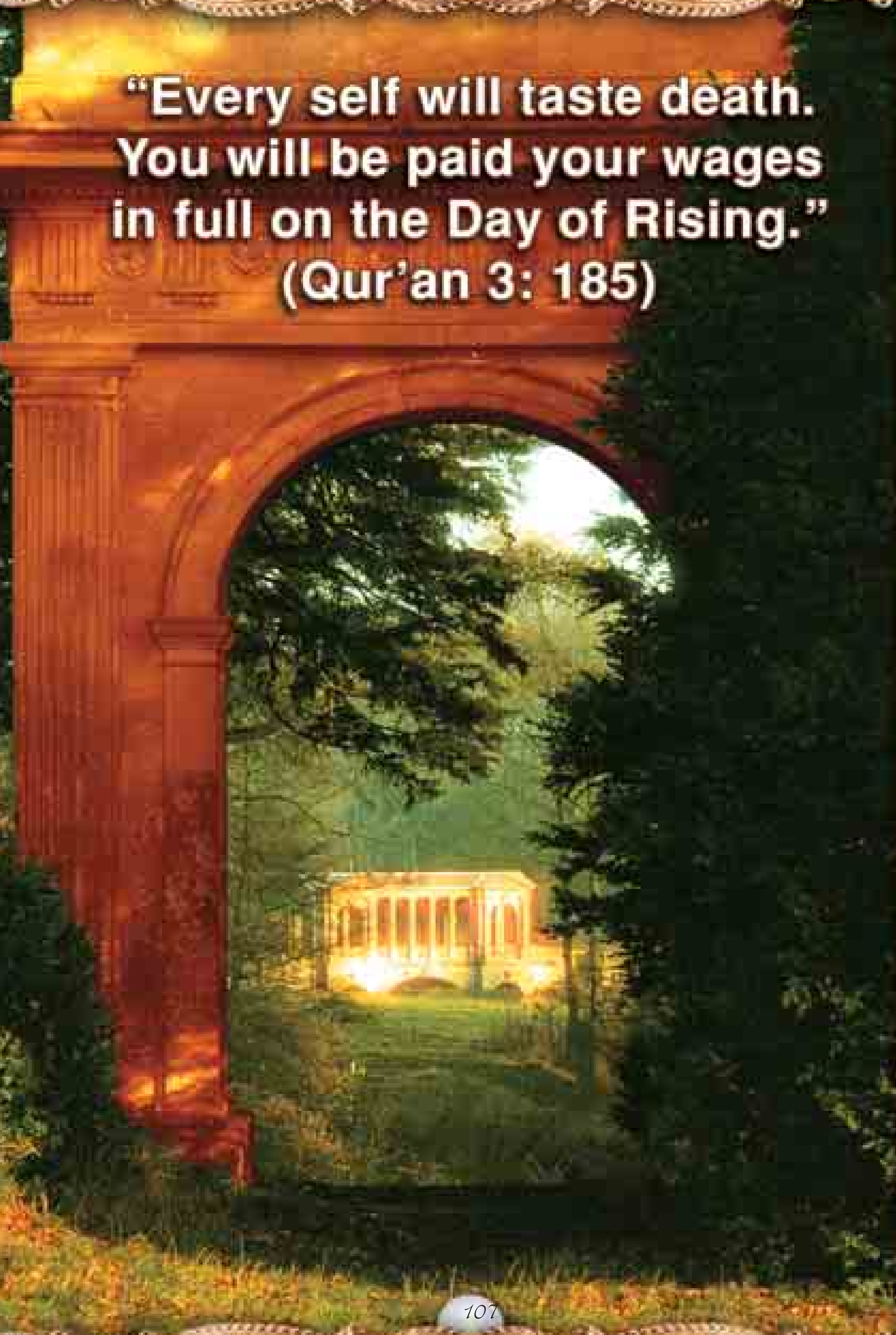
Everyone should take seriously God's constant warnings that the day of reckoning approaches, that **"the Hour is coming without any doubt"** (Qur'an, 22: 7). In another verse, God says:

Mankind's Reckoning has drawn very close to them, yet they heedlessly turn away. No fresh reminder comes to them from their Lord without their listening to it as if it was a game. (Qur'an, 21: 1-2)

On that day, the good will receive a perfect recompense for their deeds, while anyone who committed evil will wish that there were a long span of time between himself and that day. Each individual will go alone into God's presence, where he will be judged with complete fairness:

We will set up the Just Balance on the Day of Rising and no self will be wronged in any way.




"Every self will taste death.
You will be paid your wages
in full on the Day of Rising."
(Qur'an 3: 185)

Even if it is no more than the weight of a grain of mustard-seed, We will bring it forth. We are sufficient as a Reckoner. (Qur'an, 21: 47)

All man-made philosophies are deceptions that alienate people from a belief in the existence of God and from His service. Buddhism's superficial understanding of morality is completely contrary to human natural pattern in many aspects. To an extent, it lets people avoid the torments of conscience that comes from having no religion and so, functions as a false source of spirituality. Believers in Buddhism console themselves with the idea that they have attained spiritual mastery by inflicting pain on themselves and denying the needs of the body. But there's one basic truth of which they take no notice: that people must realize that they are servants of God. A good deed is of any value only if it is done to consciously serve God and win His pleasure. Bridling the wishes and desires of our hearts carries great value, but only if done to win God's pleasure, and to the extent that He desires. Of those who exert this kind of effort with no view to winning His pleasure, God says that **"their actions have come to nothing in the world and the hereafter."** (Qur'an, 2: 217)

Buddhism's Idea of the Life of This World

Those who accept the idea of karma believe that their cycle of rebirths will never end—that they live again after every death, until they attain nirvana. And so, they assume that before them lie countless possibilities. Therefore, if someone decides to commit sin, he may think he will be able to atone for it in a later incarnation, even if his very next life is worse than his present one. An understanding founded on such an erroneous foundation cannot restrain a person from committing evil.

Attachment to this world is most people's major weakness. They believe in a perverse idea like reincarnation chiefly because they want never to give up earthly temptations. Therefore, only if someone has an accurate conception of the real nature of this worldly life can he radically alter his behavior so as to live morally.

Anyone aware of the real nature of the life of this world knows that he has been created to serve the Lord, his Protector and Helper, Who has created both him and the universe. Also, he knows that God will hold him responsible for all his thoughts, words and deeds, and that he must give an accounting to God after his death. The Lord reveals the reason for the creation of the life of this world in the Qur'an (67: 2): **"He Who created death and life to test which of you is best in action. He is the Almighty, the Ever-Forgiving."**

As this verse states, God has created human beings and placed them in this one life temporarily, as a test. Here, He tries us with the things that happen to us, and causes our lives to continue in order to separate believers from the unbelievers, to purify them of their sins, and to guide them to the moral values that lead to Paradise. In other words, this world is only a place of training, where we can win God's pleasure.

In the Qur'an, verse 2: 21, God reveals that He has created human beings to serve Him: **"Mankind! Worship your Lord, Who created you and those before you, so that you may do your duty."**

God has clearly indicated the limits that human beings may not transgress, and the kinds of behavior that will win His approval and the kinds that will not. On the basis of their behavior in the world, people will receive reward or punishment in the eternal life to come. This means that every moment we live brings us closer to either Hell or Paradise. God reminds His servants of this reality and warns them

against that day in many verses of the Qur'an, including this one (59:18):

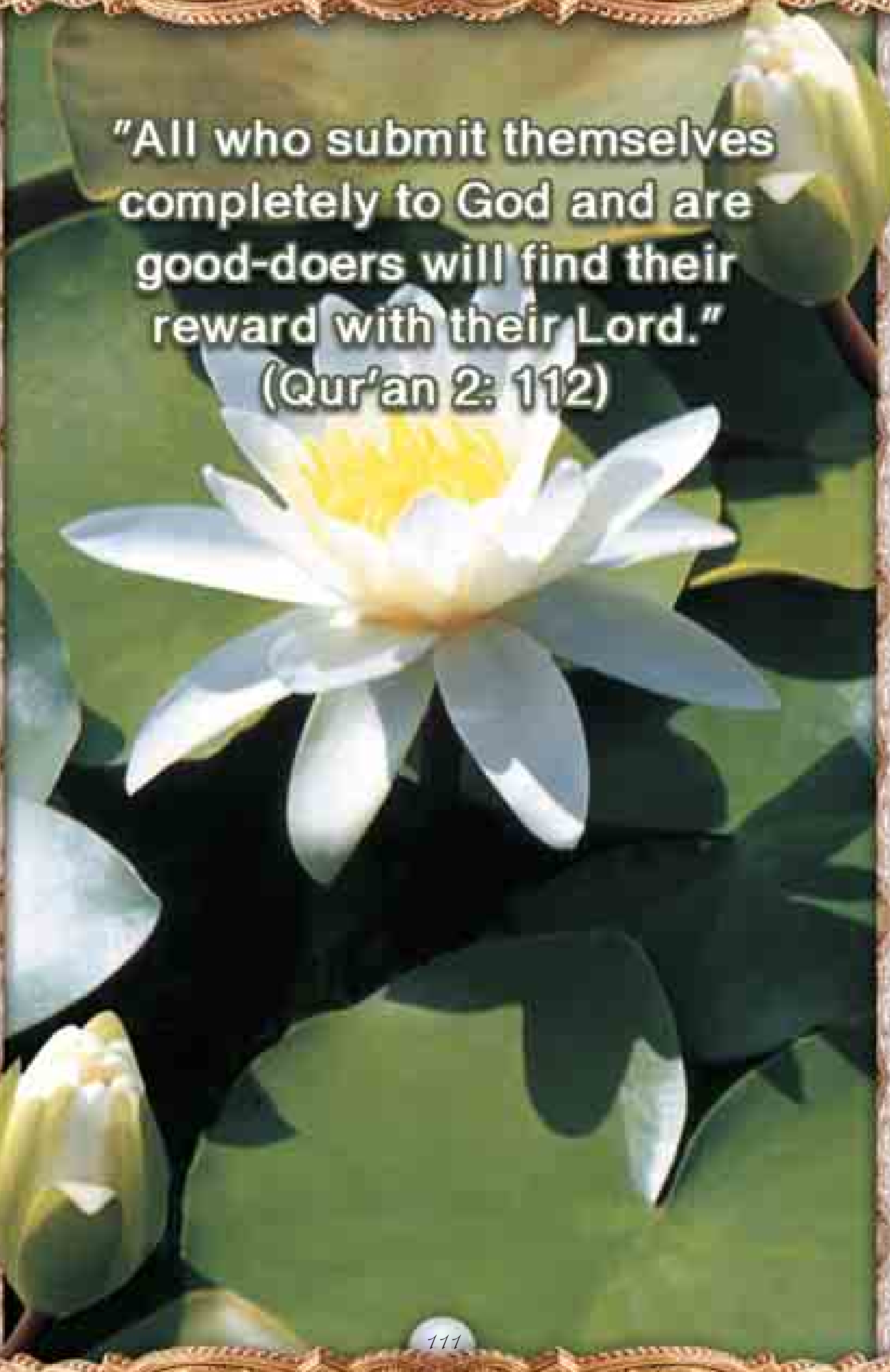
You who believe! Heed God and let each self look to what it has sent forward for Tomorrow. Heed God. God is aware of what you do.

Believers who fear God's punishment, serve only Him, obey His commands absolutely, avoid evil and act in ways that will win our Lord's pleasure. To be attached to God with strong bonds of love, fearing Him and heeding His commands and being determined to serve Him—that is the only way to gain moral superiority that a person should commit to. He would never compromise that goal, even if it conflicts with his interests. He may have a few fine moral qualities otherwise, but these will be restricted, short-lived or depend on some condition.

Buddhism also recommends good deeds, of course, but they may have no value in the sight of God. What value lies in a person's doing some good to those around him, if he is ungrateful to God, denying the existence of the One Who created him from nothing? In order for his deeds to have any value, they must be done with faith in God—with a view to gaining His approval, in awe of His glory, obedience, and with awareness of His power. For this reason, believers' superior moral character does not rest on romanticism. Their worship is continual and uninterrupted, as God has commanded in the Qur'an:

God augments those who are guided by giving them greater guidance. In your Lord's sight, right actions that are lasting are better both in reward and end result (Qur'an, 19: 76).

Everything in the heavens and earth belongs to Him, and the religion belongs to Him, firmly and for ever. So why do you fear anyone other than God? (Qur'an, 16: 52)


"All who submit themselves completely to God and are good-doers will find their reward with their Lord."
(Qur'an 2: 112)

Wealth and sons are the embellishment of the life of this world. But, in your Lord's sight, right actions that are lasting bring a better reward and are a better basis for hope. (Qur'an, 18: 46)

People must be wary of growing attached to transient and deceptive baubles in this life, because life in this world is very short. Wealth, beauty and worldly possessions are worthless in the afterlife. The buried body will decay; time will destroy material possessions. Everyone will be brought into the presence of God to give an account. Moreover, if you ask a thirty-year-old what he has experienced up to this point, he'll say that his life has passed by very quickly. He may live another thirty or fifty years in the same way, before his life will come to an end.

In several verses, God draws our attention to the fact that the span of life in this world is short; He informs us that in the afterlife, people will openly confess this:

On the day We gather them together—when it will seem if



they had tarried no more than an hour of a single day… (Qur'an, 10: 45)

On the Day the Last Hour arrives, the evildoers will swear they have not even tarried for an hour. That is the extent to which they are deceived. (Qur'an, 30: 55)

It will be very unwise for a person to be deceived by the transient attractions of this short earthly life and to pay no regard to the after-life. The day when people will have their account to God is a reality. In the Qur'an (10: 7-8), God commands:

As for those who do not expect to meet Us and are content with the life of this world and at rest in it, and those who are heedless of Our Signs, their shelter will be the Fire because of what they earned.

But to those who are not fooled by the life of this world and choose the endless life of the world to come, God announces good news:

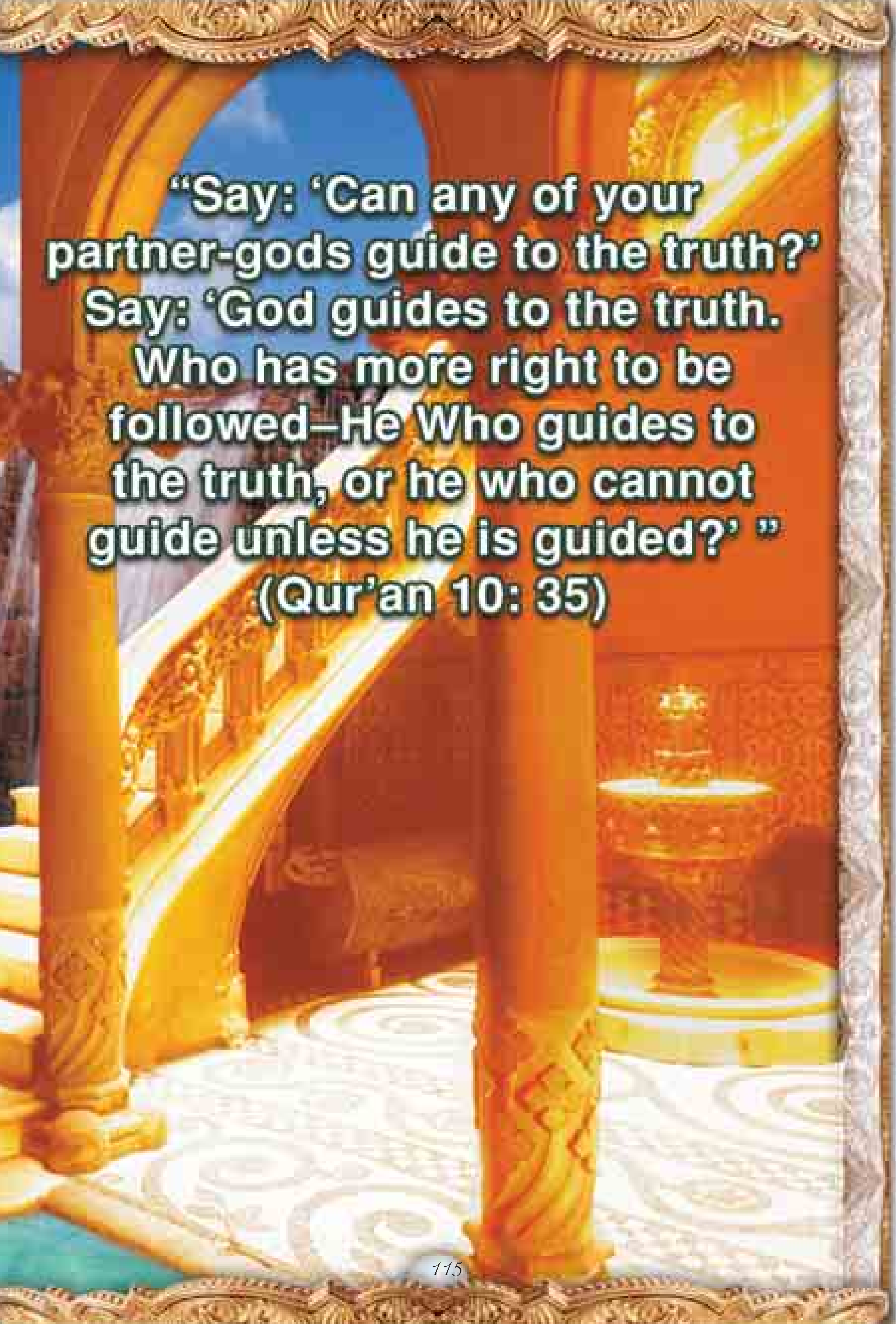


If anyone desires to cultivate the hereafter, We will increase him in his cultivation. If anyone desires to cultivate this world, We will give him some of it but he will have no share in the hereafter. (Qur'an, 42: 20)

Do not direct your eyes longingly to what We have given certain of them to enjoy, the flower of the life of this world, so that We can test them by it. Your Lord's provision is better and longer lasting. (Qur'an, 20: 131)

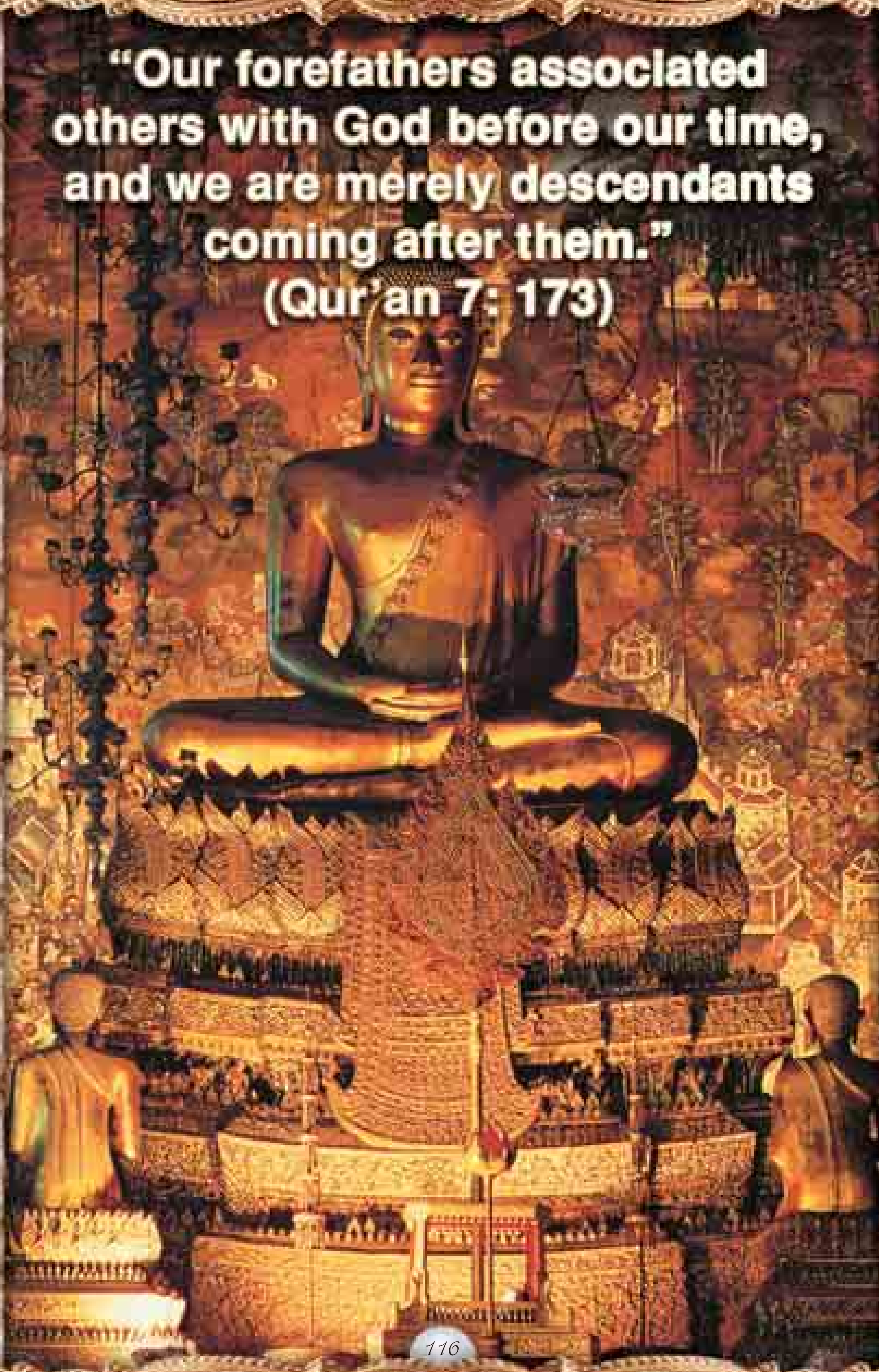






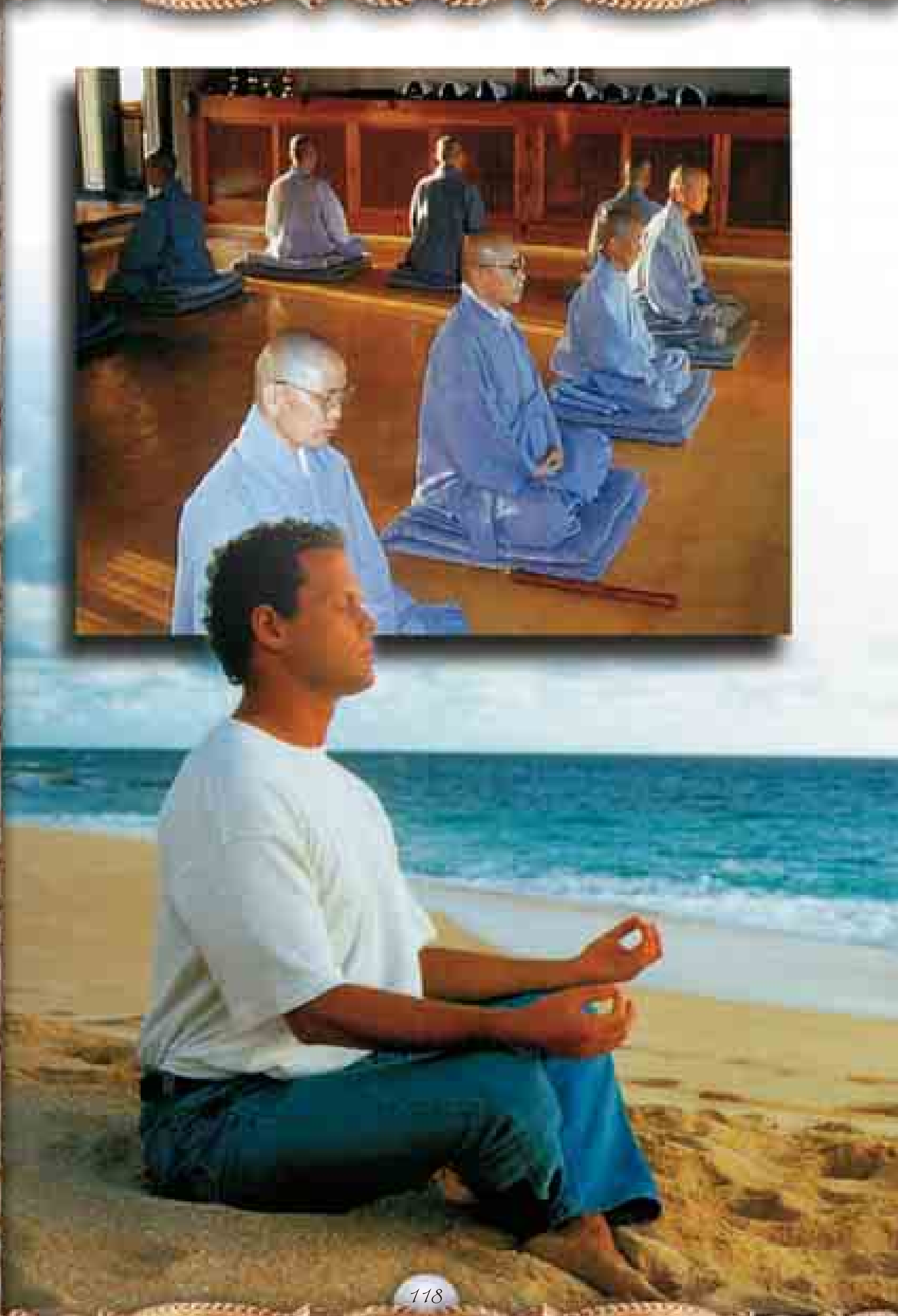
"Say: 'Can any of your partner-gods guide to the truth?' Say: 'God guides to the truth. Who has more right to be followed–He Who guides to the truth, or he who cannot guide unless he is guided?' "
(Qur'an 10: 35)

"Our forefathers associated others with God before our time, and we are merely descendants coming after them."
(Qur'an 7: 173)





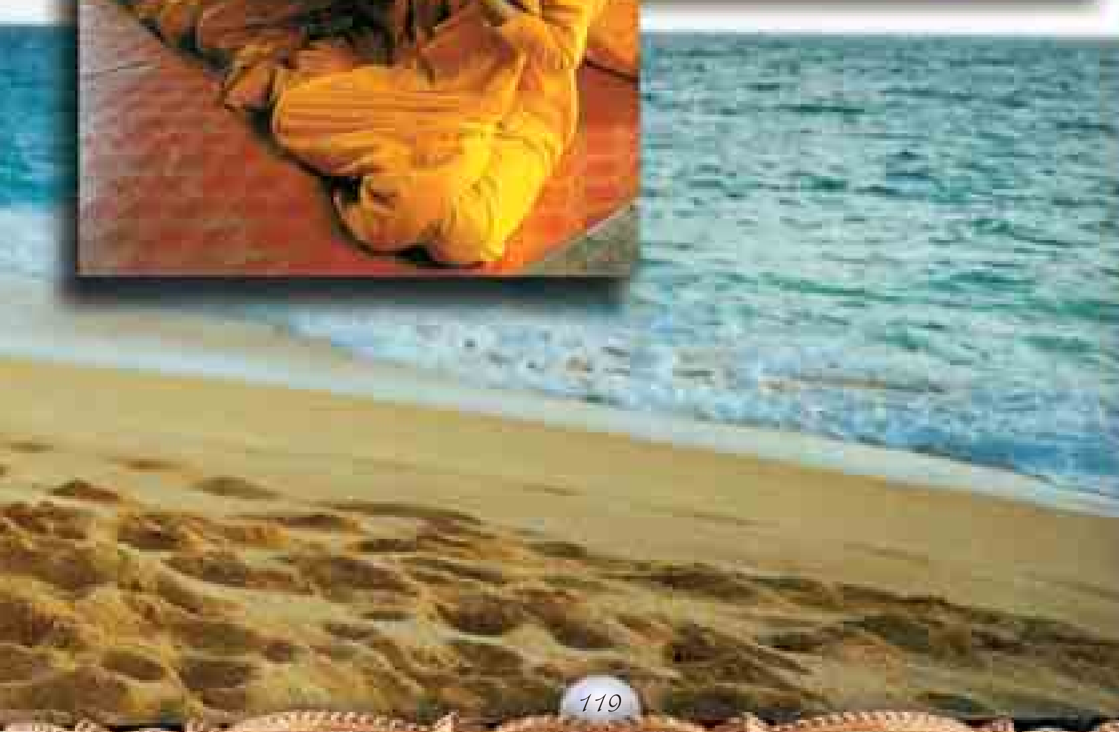
Above: Buddhist literature proposes meditation as the best way to attain a sense of well-being and avoid daily anxieties. But this is a great deception. Those who meditate to push concerns out of their minds come face to face with the same worries when their meditation ends. Trying to forget worries may afford temporary relief, but does not remove them; temporary tranquilization of the brain is of no use. The only way to true well-being and happiness is submit to the fate that the One and Only and True God has decreed. The believer who knows that no single leaf falls apart from the will of God, knows too that everything that happens to him is a test. Throughout his lifetime, a person is tested by everything he experiences and by every deed he does. And in the life to come, he will receive the most just reward for them.
Left: A statue of Buddha in the Wat Po Temple in Bangkok.



Today, mystical movements such as meditation and yoga are very popular in the West. But the true path to inner peace, happiness and a good conscience is not found in such transient tranquilizations of the brain; it comes from believing in God, submitting to Him with a faithful heart, and leading one's life in a way that will please Him.





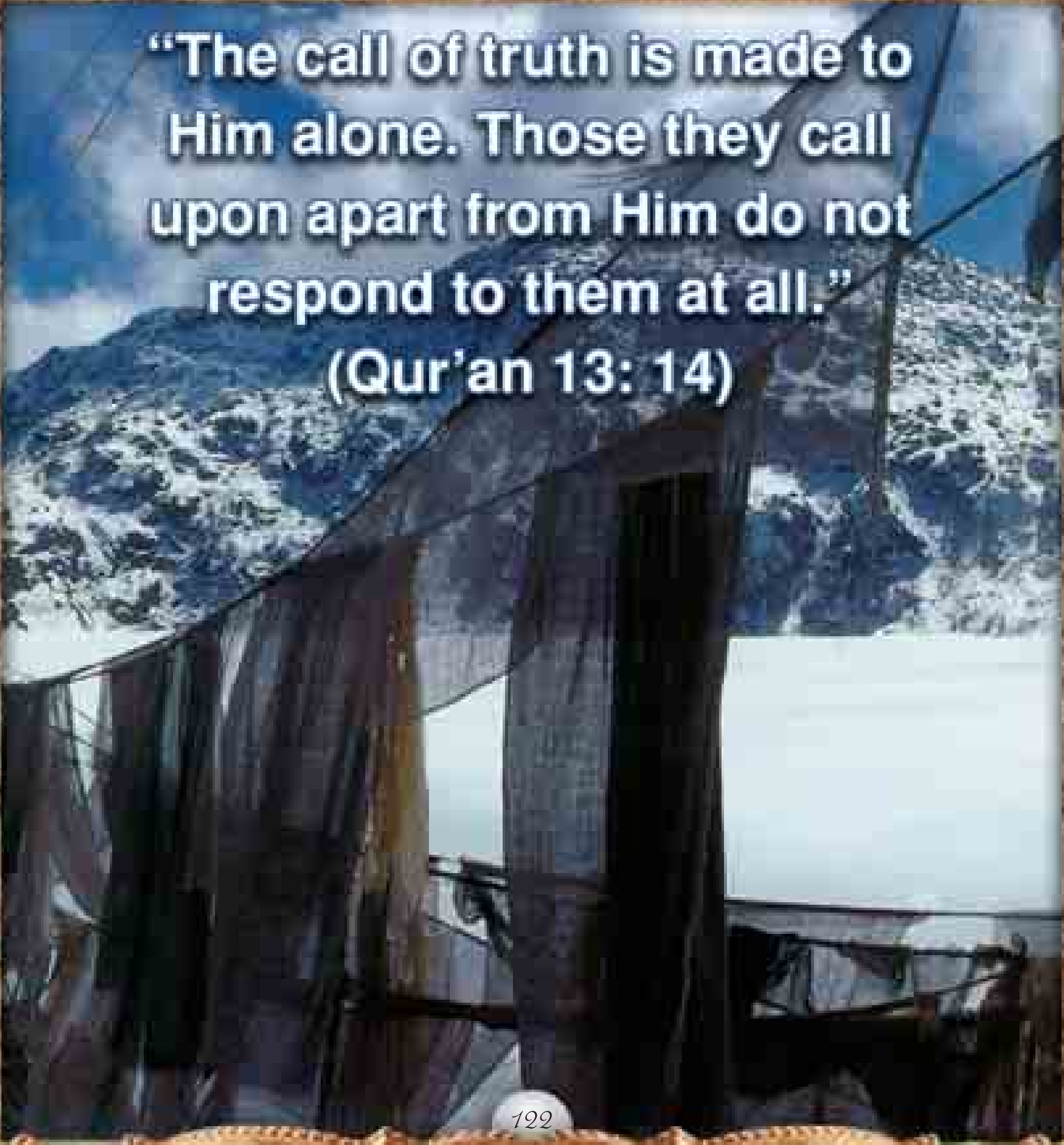


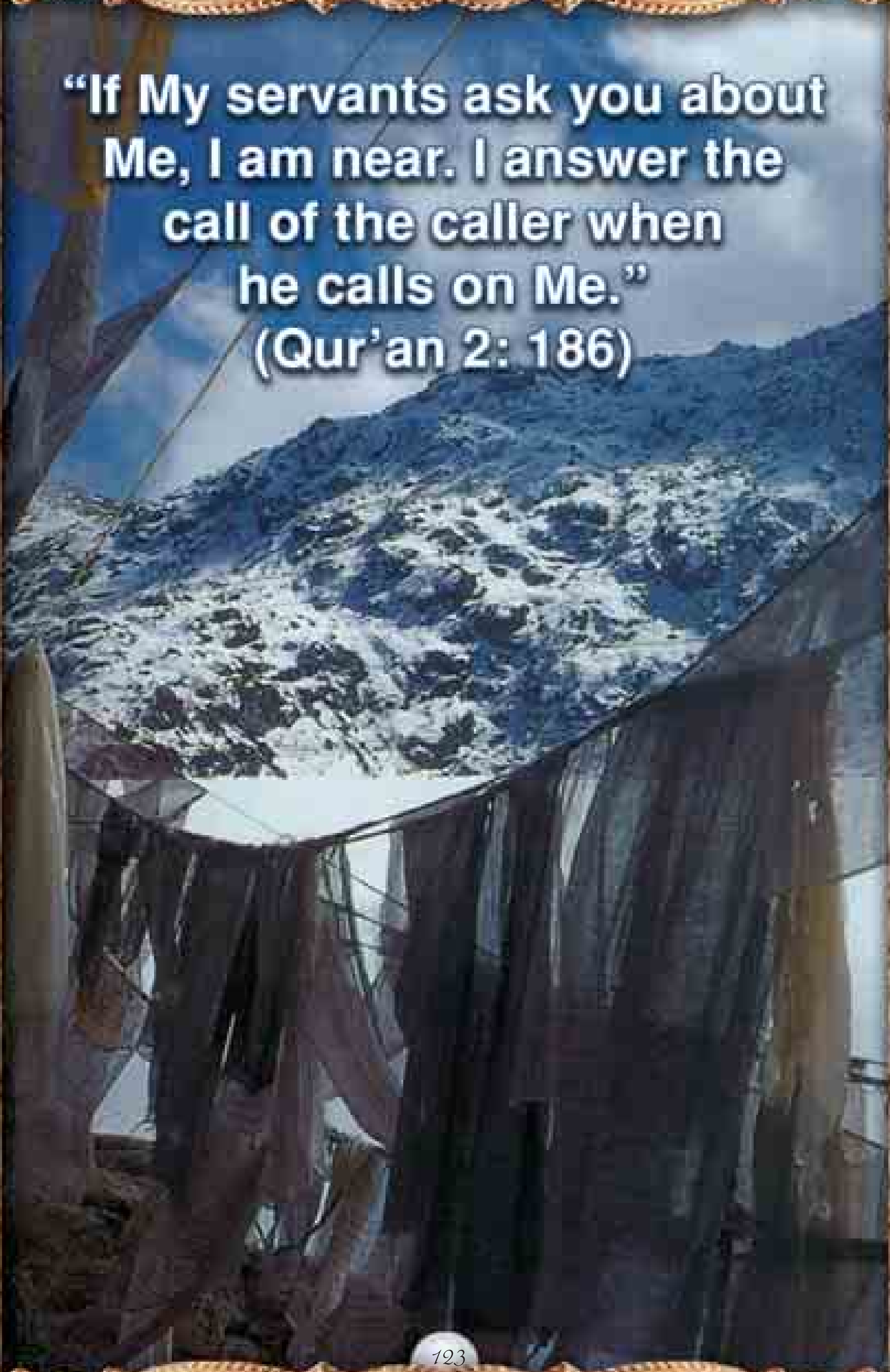
"God is He Who created you, then provides for you, then will cause you to die and then bring you back to life. Can any of your partner-gods do any of that?"
(Qur'an 30: 40)



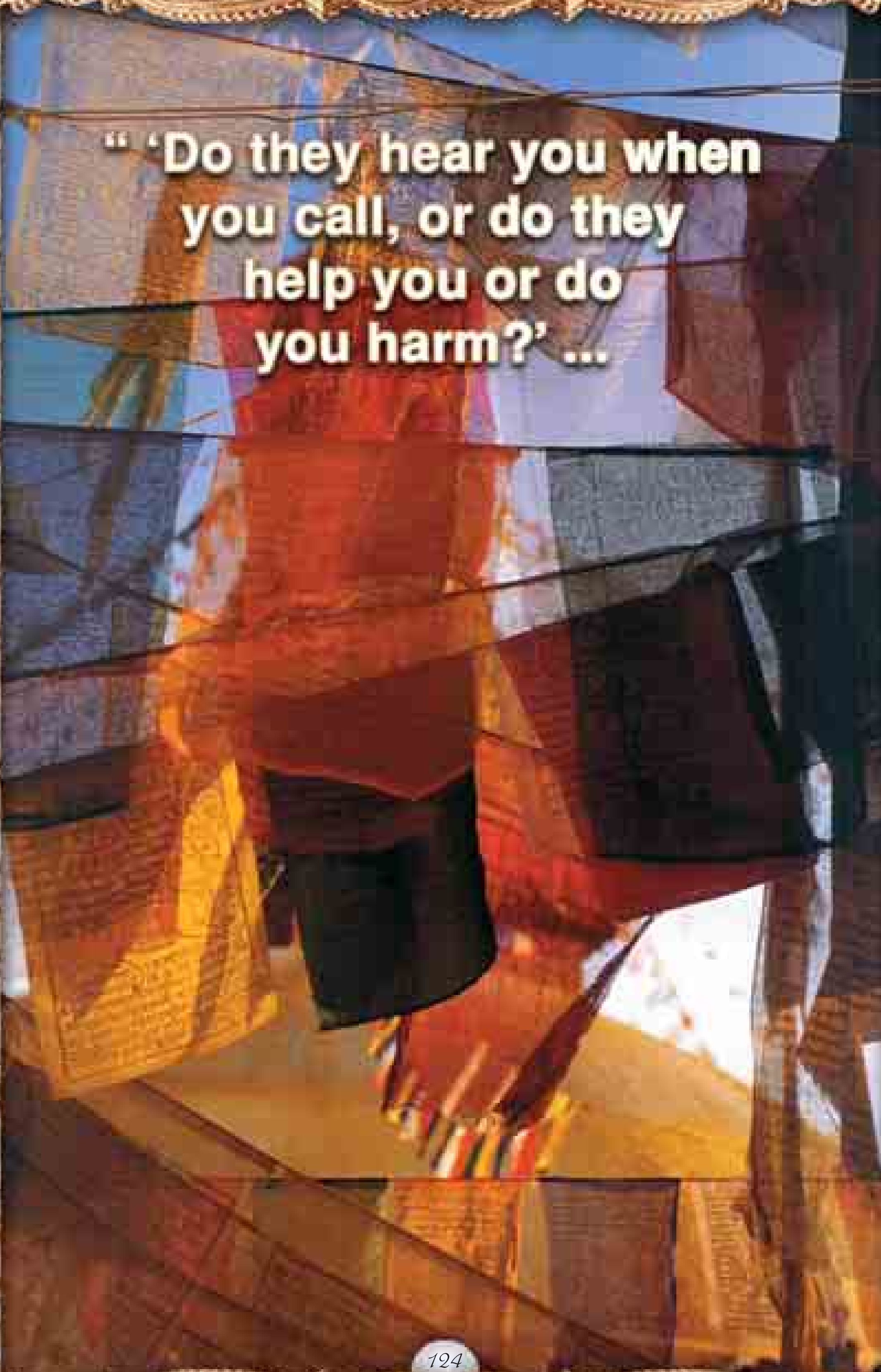


Around Buddhist temples, you can see hundreds of prayer flags attached to ropes. According to this superstition, prayers written on these flags are more likely to be fulfilled if carried by the wind. Like other Buddhist ideas, this too is a myth. Denying the existence of God, Buddhists are at a loss to explain to whom they are praying or why. In the Qur'an, God reminds us that only prayers addressed to our Lord, the One and Only God, will be accepted.




"If My servants ask you about
Me, I am near. I answer the
call of the caller when
he calls on Me."
(Qur'an 2: 186)

" 'Do they hear you when you call, or do they help you or do you harm?' ...

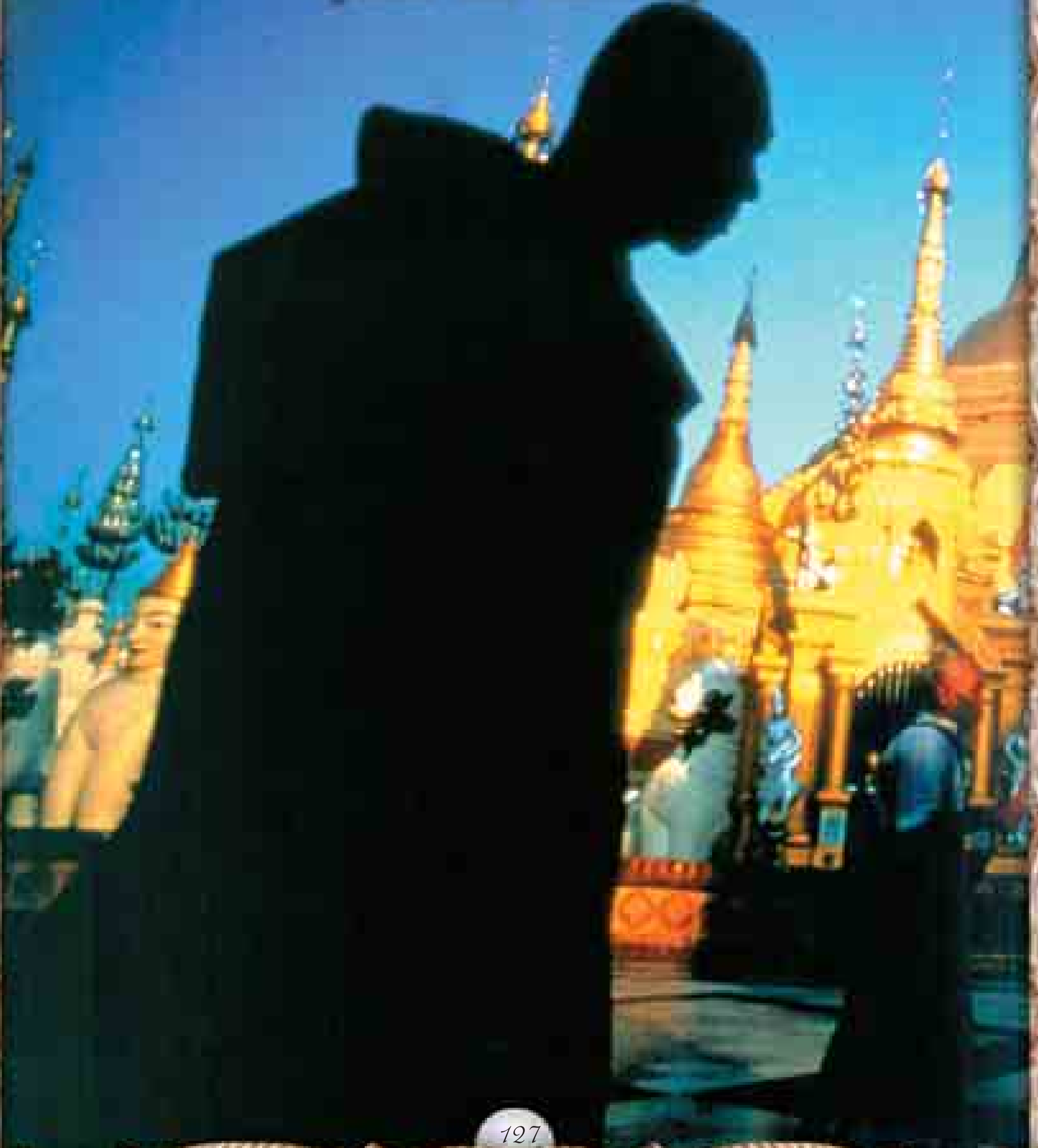



...They said, 'No, but this
is what we found
our fathers doing.' "
(Qur'an 26: 72-74)

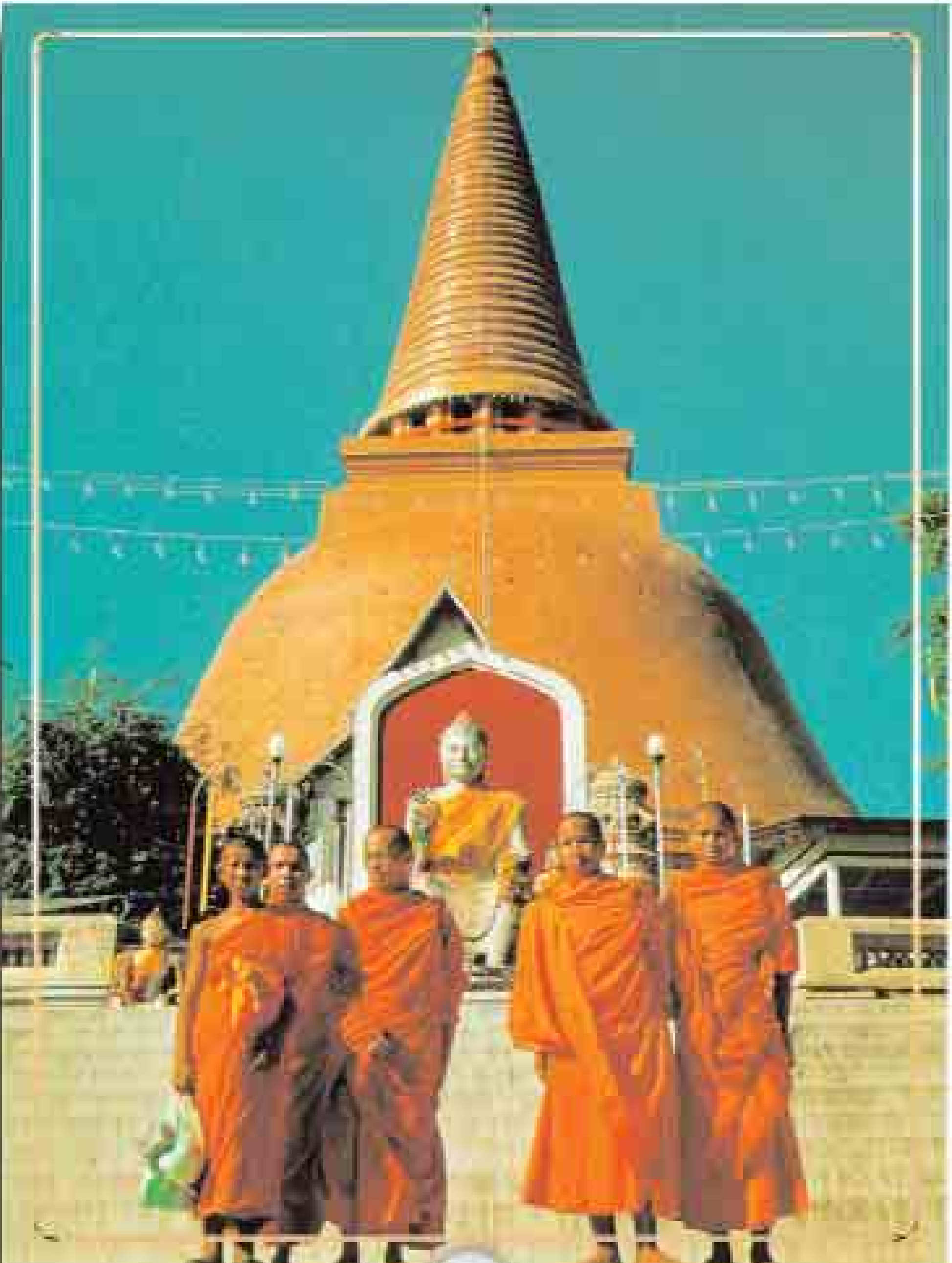
Buddhists meticulously practice the traditions inherited from their ancestors; they spend days saying prayers in the precincts of their temple and spinning prayer wheels. But in seeing these practices as a way of salvation, Buddhists are greatly deceived. Statues of wood and stone that they bow before, burn incense to and pray to cannot hear their entreaties or answer their prayers.

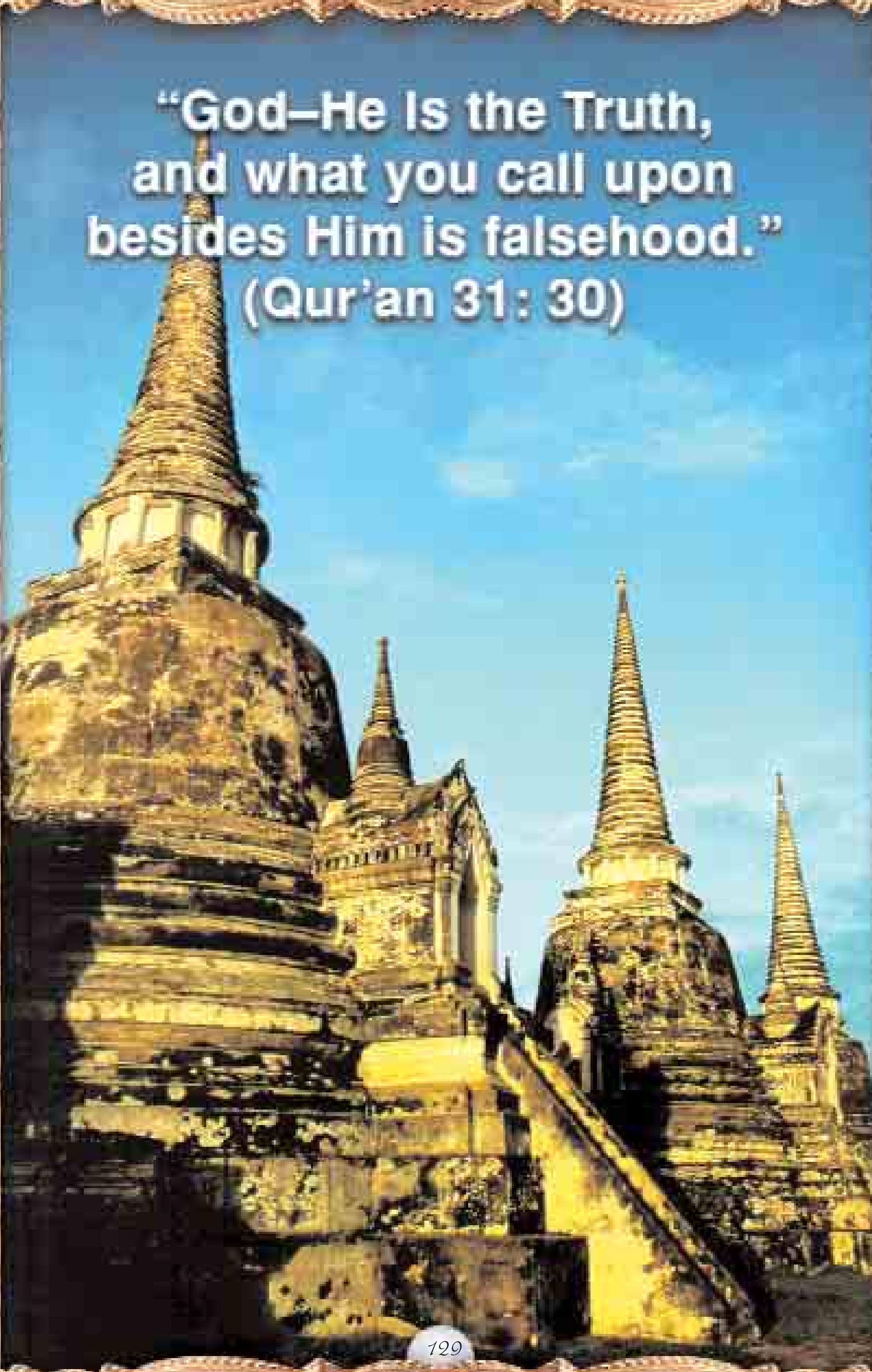


"The kingdom of the heavens and earth belongs to God and, on the Day that the Hour arrives, that Day the liars will be lost."
(Qur'an 45: 27)



Strange ceremonies performed in places dedicated to the name of Buddha demonstrate the perversity of Buddhist beliefs. In these pagan ceremonies, stone statues of Buddha are worshipped, even though they have no power to do either good or harm. It is irrational to expect assistance from these statues, but those brainwashed by Buddhist teachings reach the point where they cannot recognize plain nonsense.




“God–He Is the Truth,
and what you call upon
besides Him is falsehood.”
(Qur’an 31: 30)

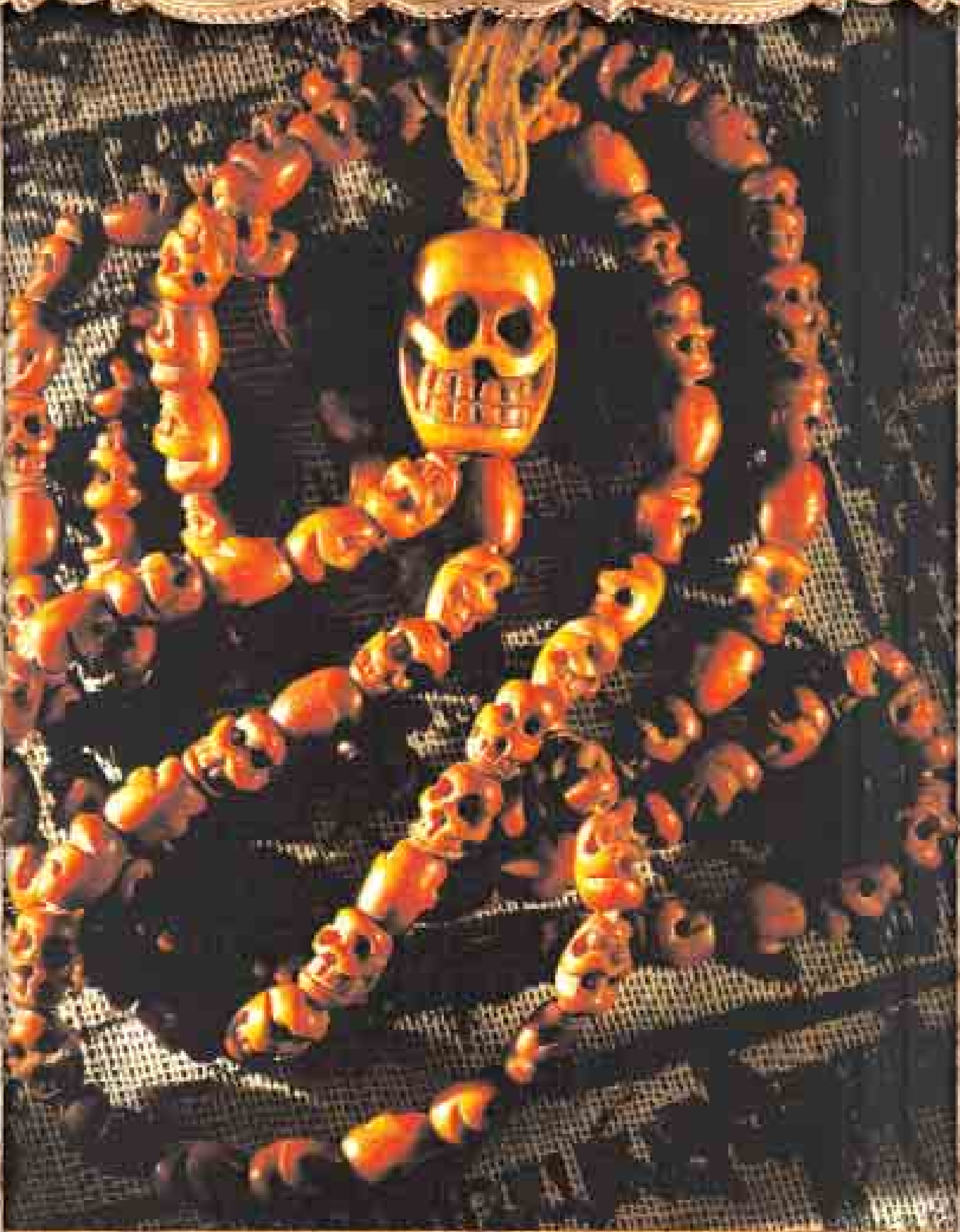


Buddhism's beliefs and ceremonies make people spiritually ill, with no regard for science, technology, art, esthetics or civilization in general.
They are greatly deceived in their belief that they are worshipping by burning candles.



"My Lord has forbidden indecency, both open and hidden, and wrong action, and unrightful tyranny, and associating anything with God for which He has sent down no authority, and saying things about God you do not know."

(Qur'an 7: 33)

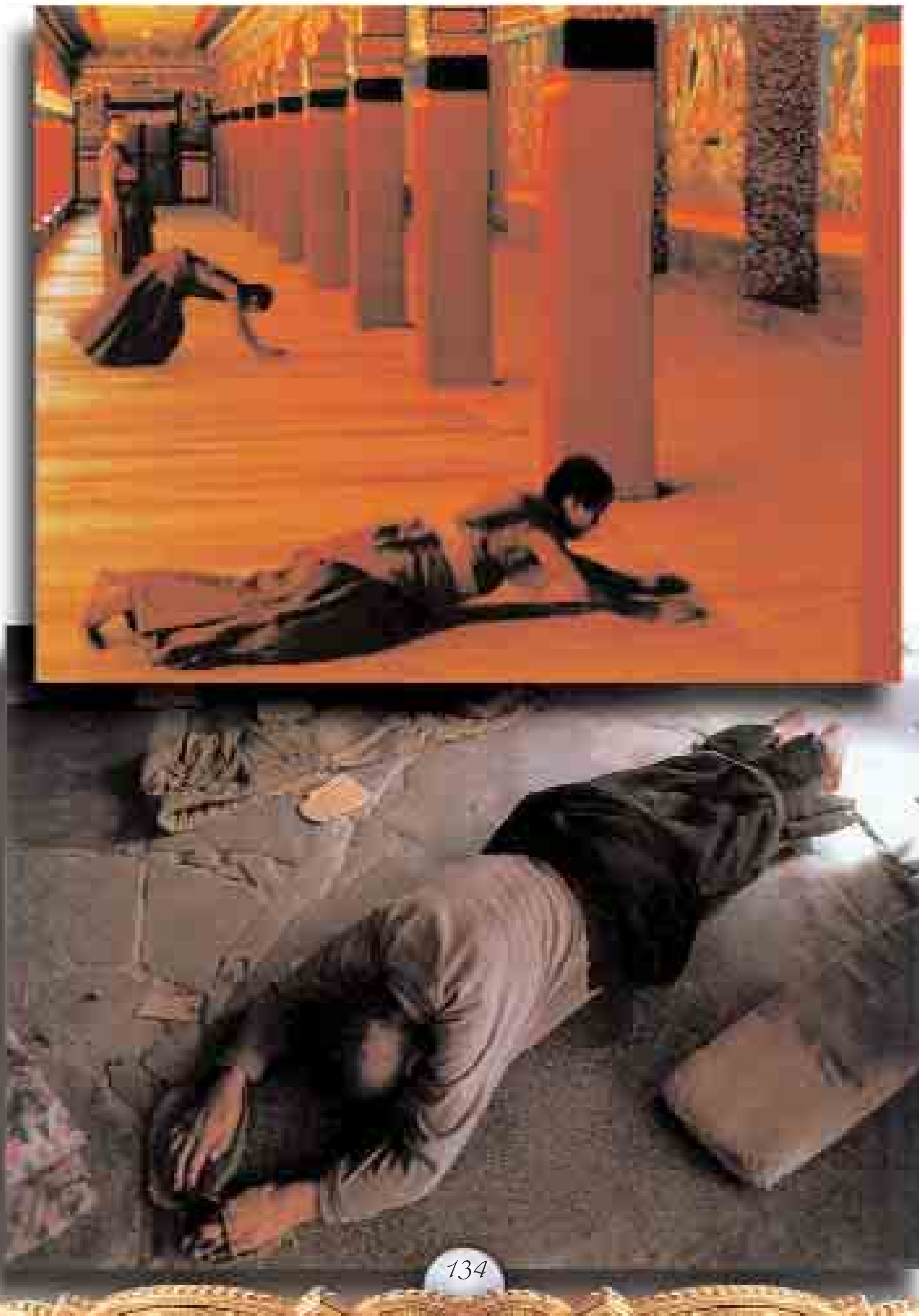


According to Buddhist rituals, the beads pictured here are holy. Buddhists repeat their prayers to Buddha millions of times (they will never gain anything by these prayers). This community, having forgotten God, expects help from a powerless servant whom He created, and is leading itself into great anguish if it does do not give up their perverse beliefs.

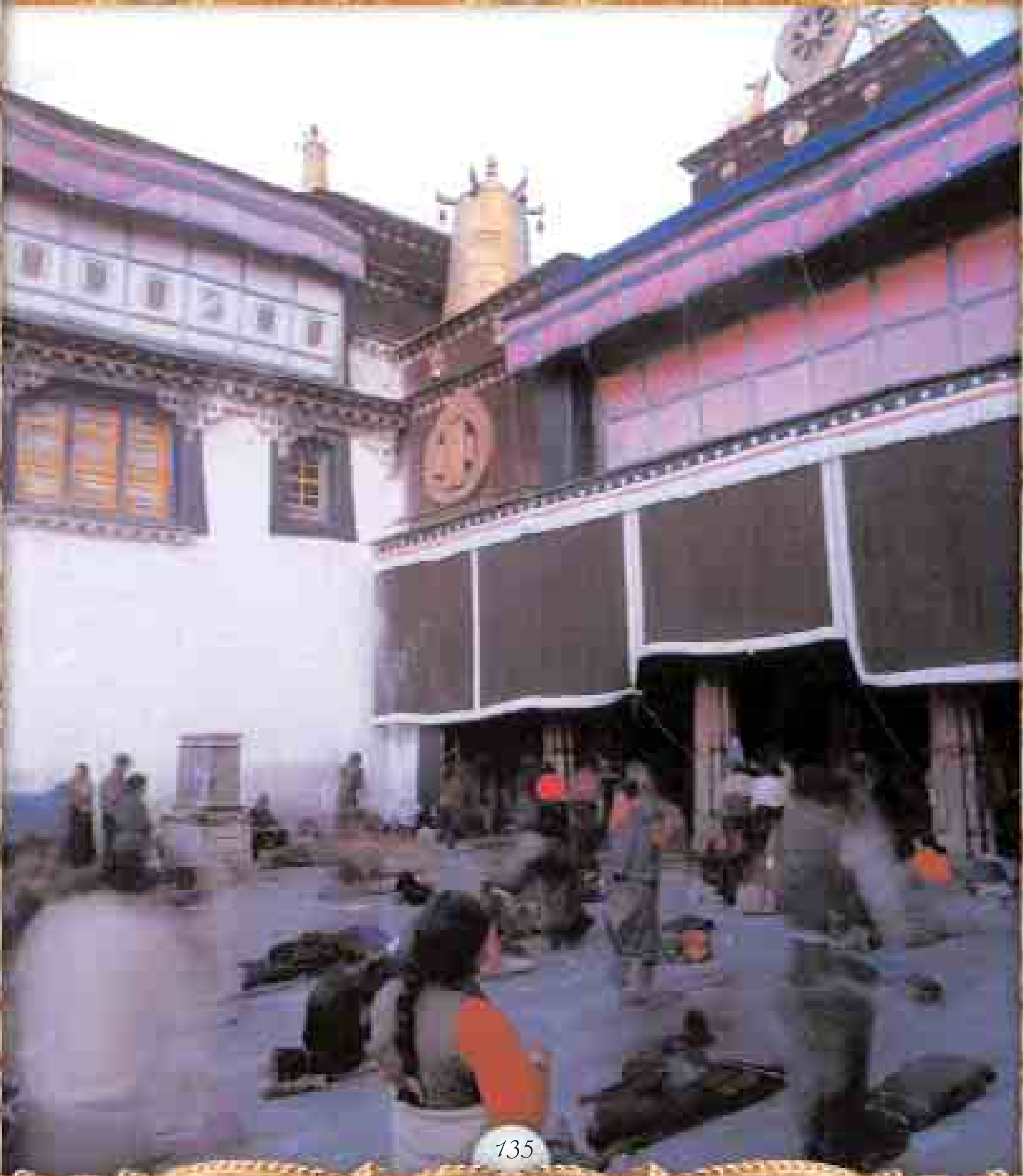
"God is the Real, and what you call on apart from Him is false. God is the All-High, the Most Great."
(Qur'an 22: 62)



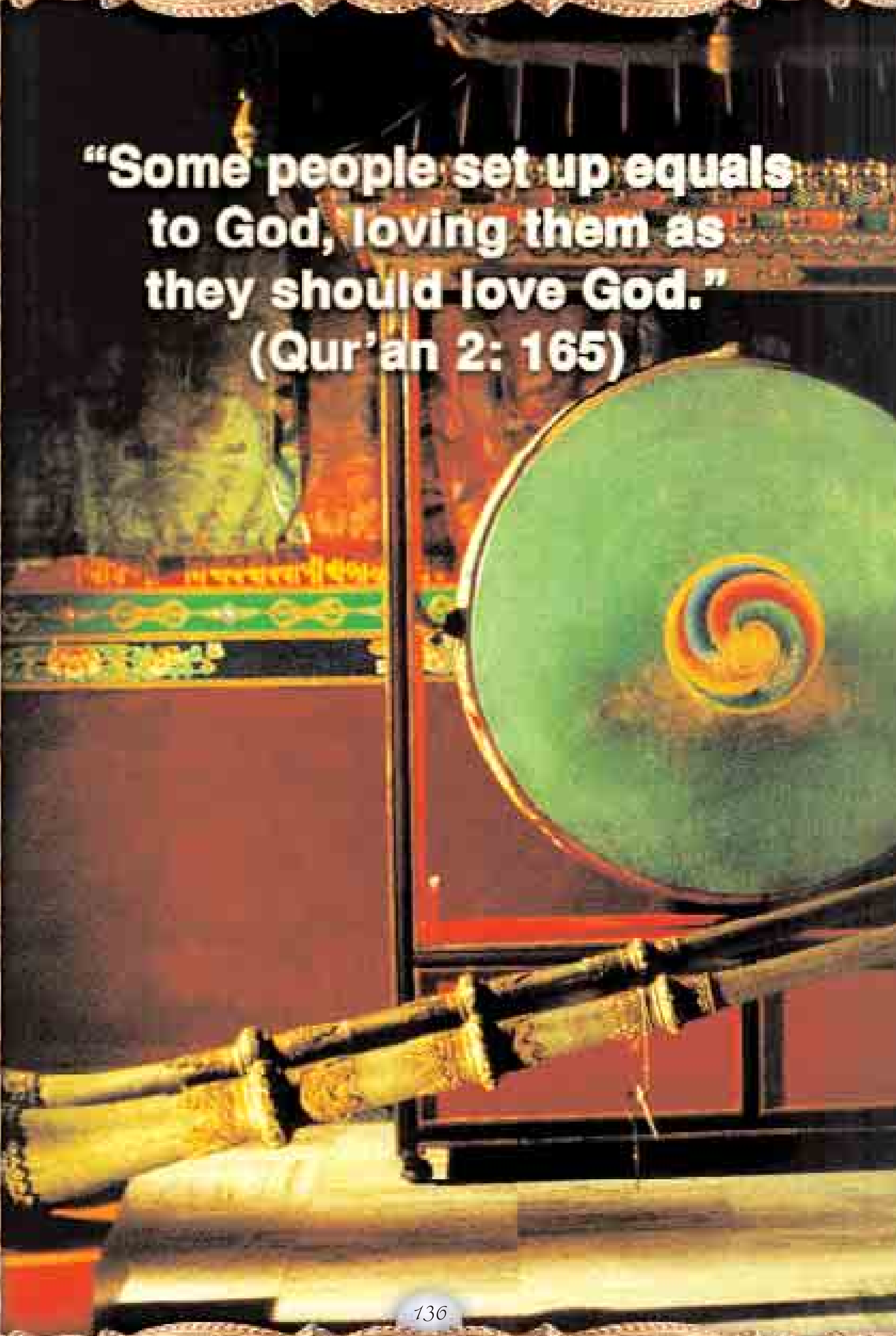
"They said, 'We found our fathers worshipping them.' He [Ibrahim] said, 'You and your fathers are clearly misguided.' "
(Qur'an 21: 53-54)

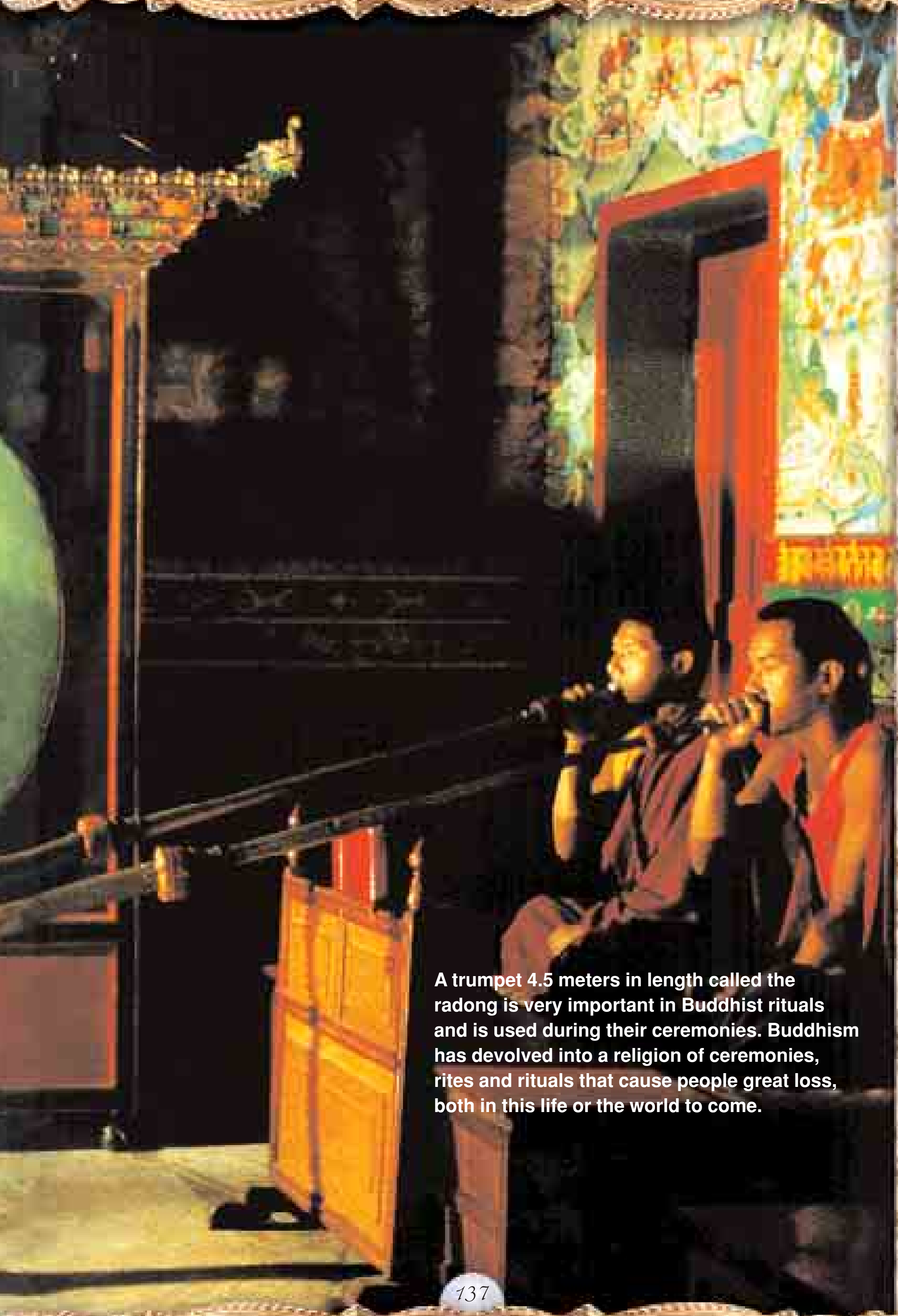


Buddhists perform strange rituals in front of statues of Buddha. Here, one of these is prostrating themselves on the ground in a gesture of respect. The first thing they do after entering a temple is to bow before the statue of Buddha and touch their faces to the floor Islam rejects the perverse beliefs of pagan communities and commands everyone to serve our Lord, the Compassionate and the Merciful, the only Master of the universe. In the Qur'an, God says, "So glorify your Lord with praise and be one of the prostrators. And worship your Lord until what is Certain comes to you." (Qur'an, 15: 98-99)



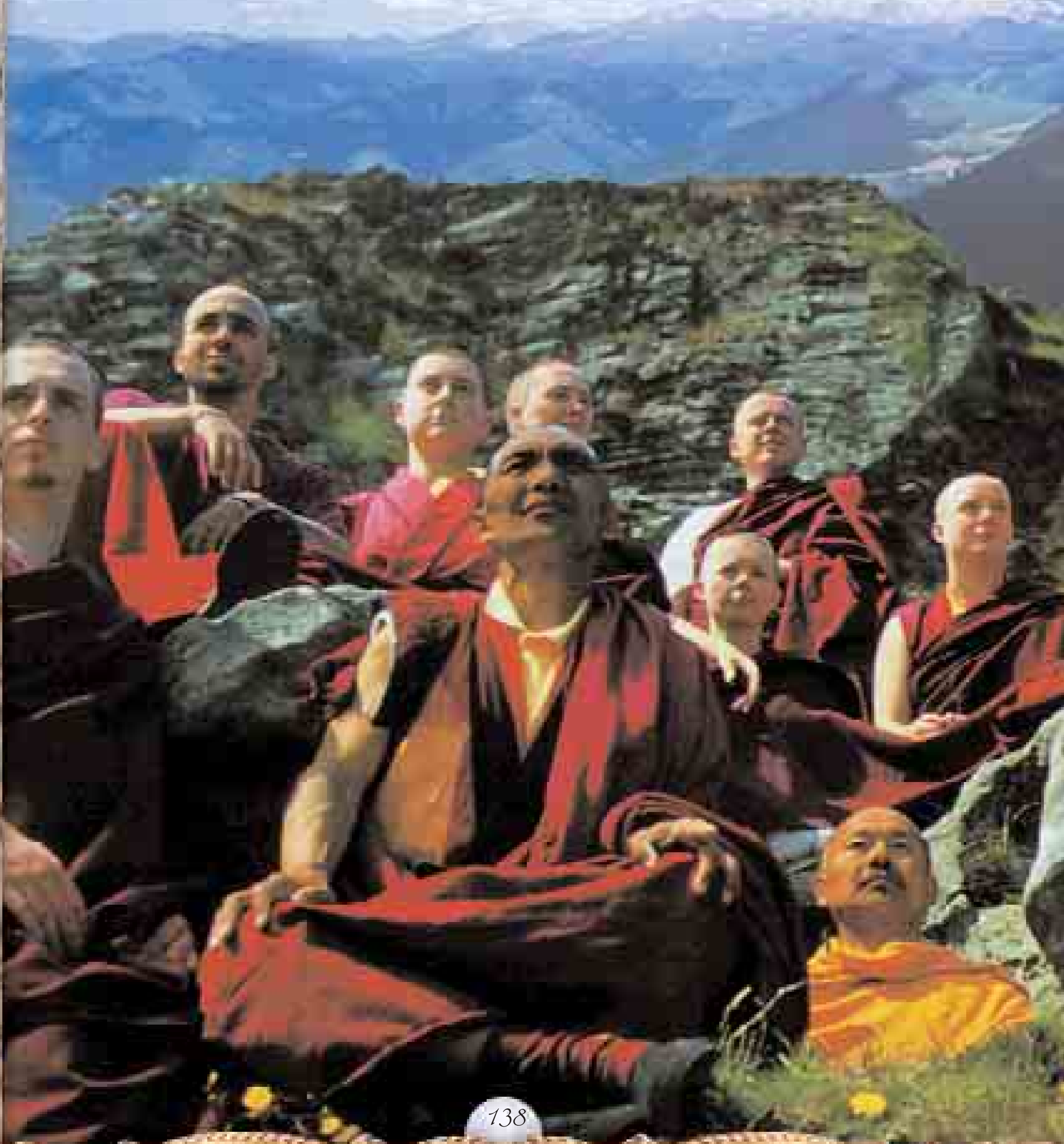
"Some people set up equals to God, loving them as they should love God."
(Qur'an 2: 165)

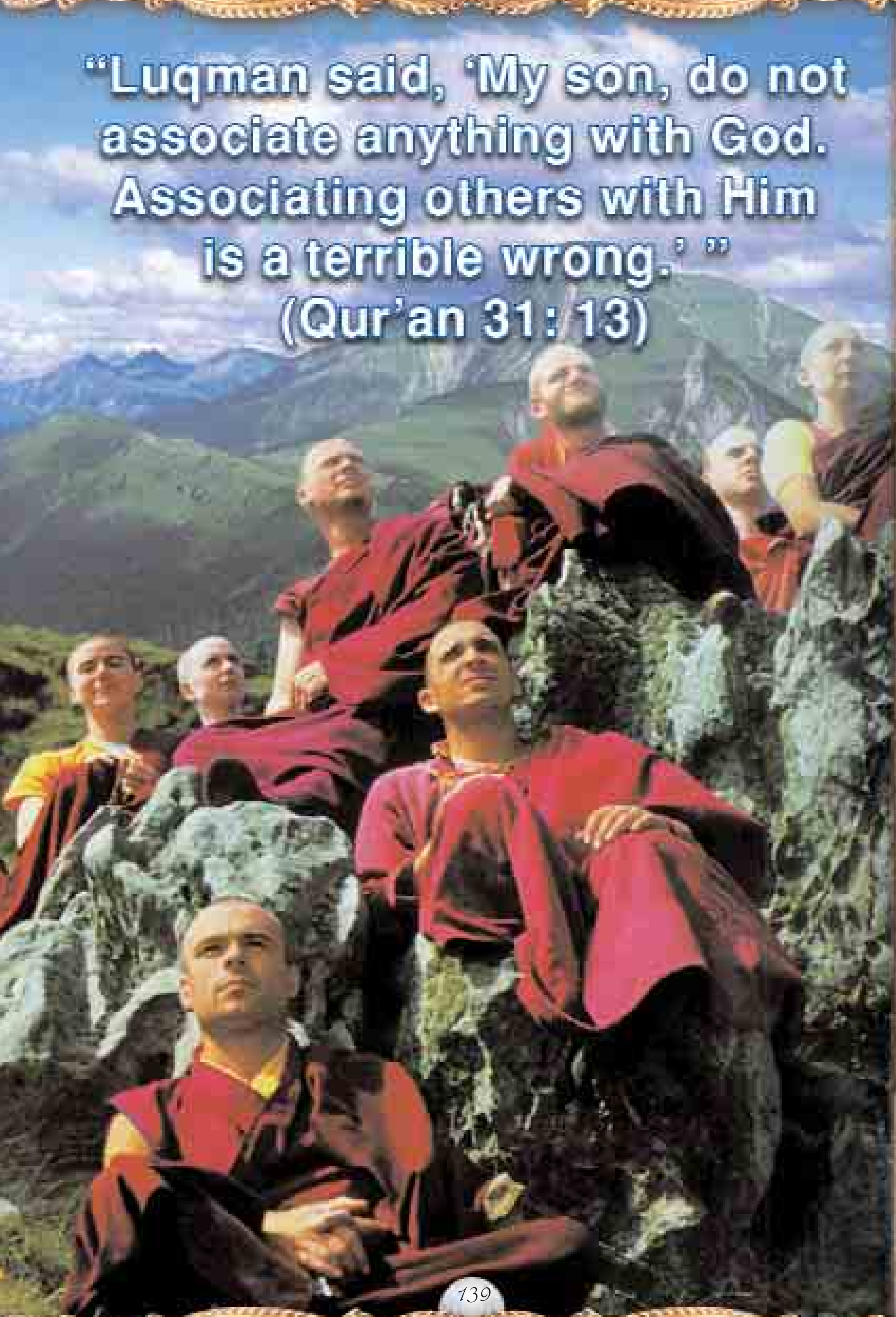




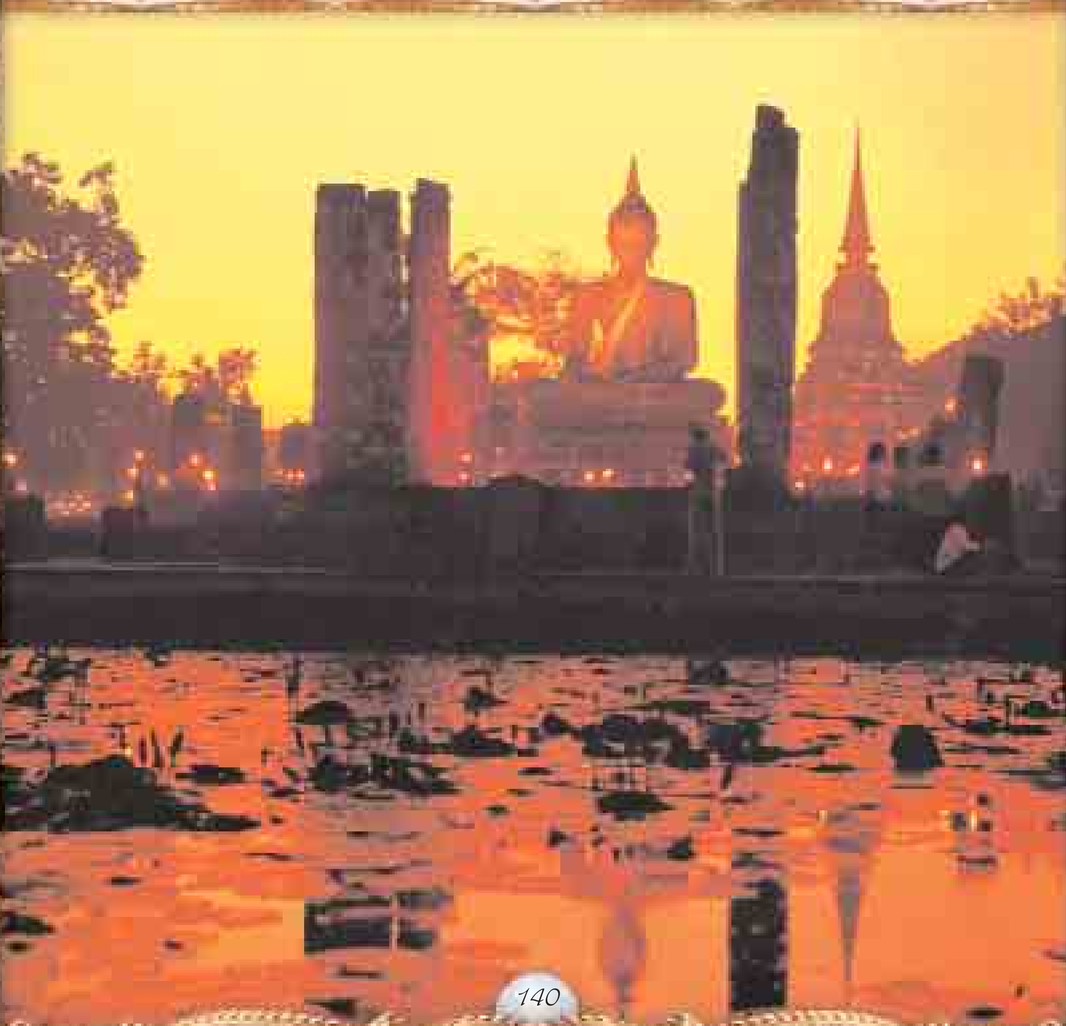
A trumpet 4.5 meters in length called the radong is very important in Buddhist rituals and is used during their ceremonies. Buddhism has devolved into a religion of ceremonies, rites and rituals that cause people great loss, both in this life or the world to come.

Buddhist priests must conform to very different rules from those that ordinary Buddhists follow. After the noon meal, they cannot eat anything until the next day, and must meditate every night without interruption. These strange customs have no place in true religion. But God always commands what is easy for His servants; in the Qur'an He says: "As for him who gives out and guards against evil and confirms the good, We will pave his way to ease." (Qur'an, 92: 5-7)

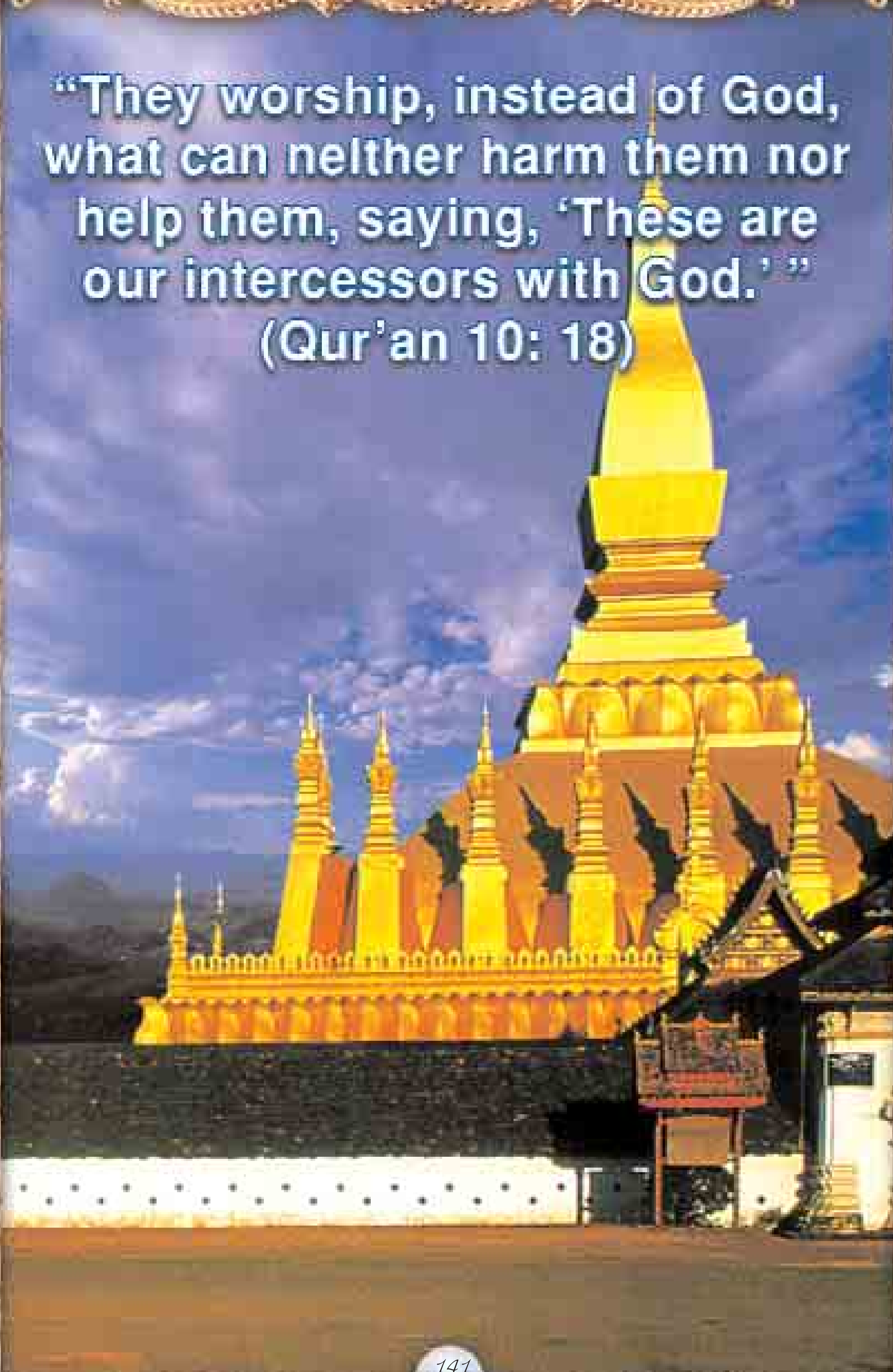


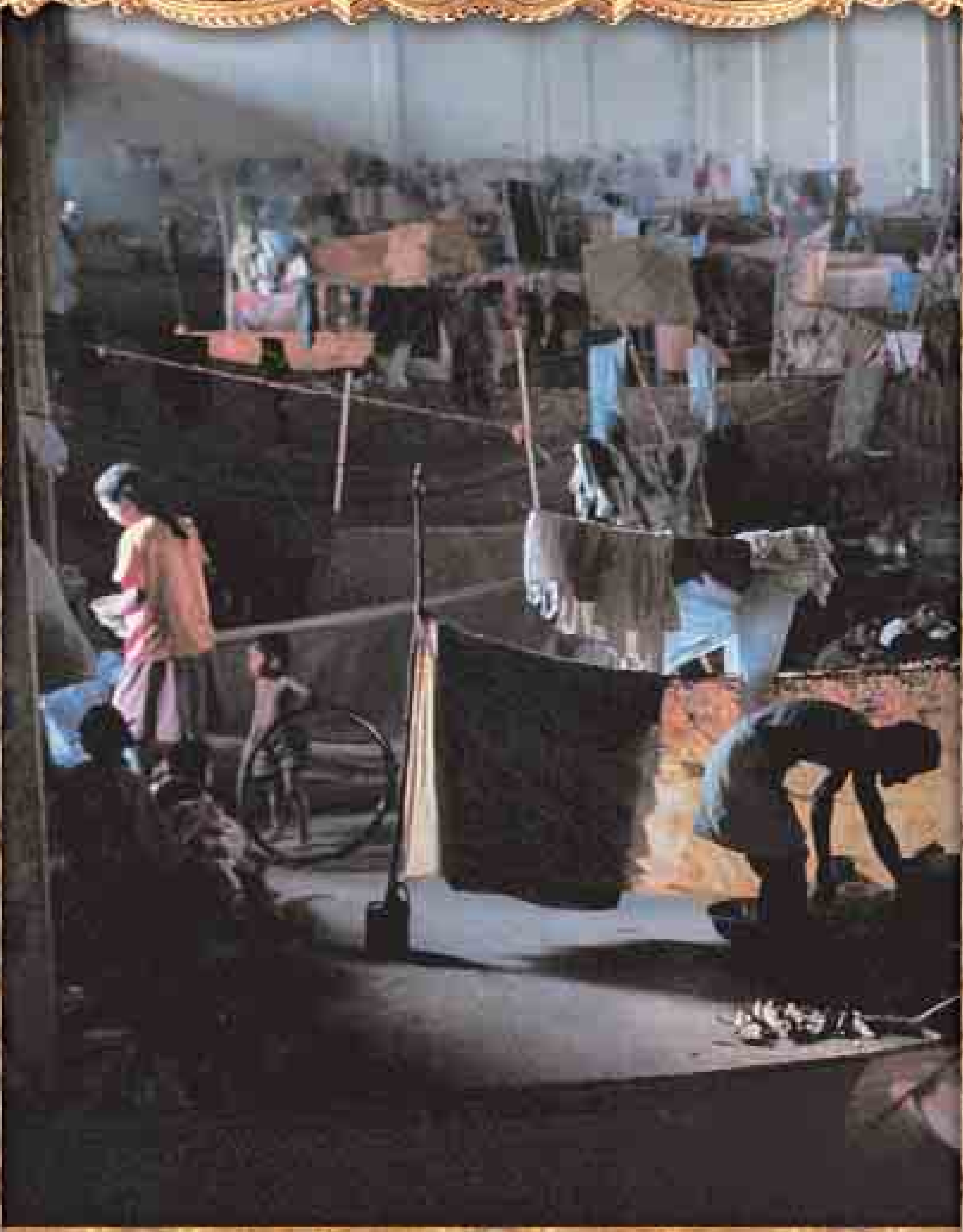

"Luqman said, 'My son, do not associate anything with God. Associating others with Him is a terrible wrong.' "
(Qur'an 31: 13)

Though Buddhism has thousands of rules and ceremonies, none is founded on any belief in the everlasting afterlife, thus causing great spiritual damage to those caught up in its perversity. Along with superstitions, the unjust practices of Buddhists indicate their lack of sincerity. Where Buddhism is widespread, many suffer from great poverty, but no expense is spared in constructing pagan temples dedicated to Buddha. Rejection of the truth of the afterlife leads Buddhists into moral and spiritual ruin, cutting them off from the external world, giving them no concern for justice or regard for others. Those with such a dark and gloomy outlook cannot find or implement intelligent solutions to society's problems.



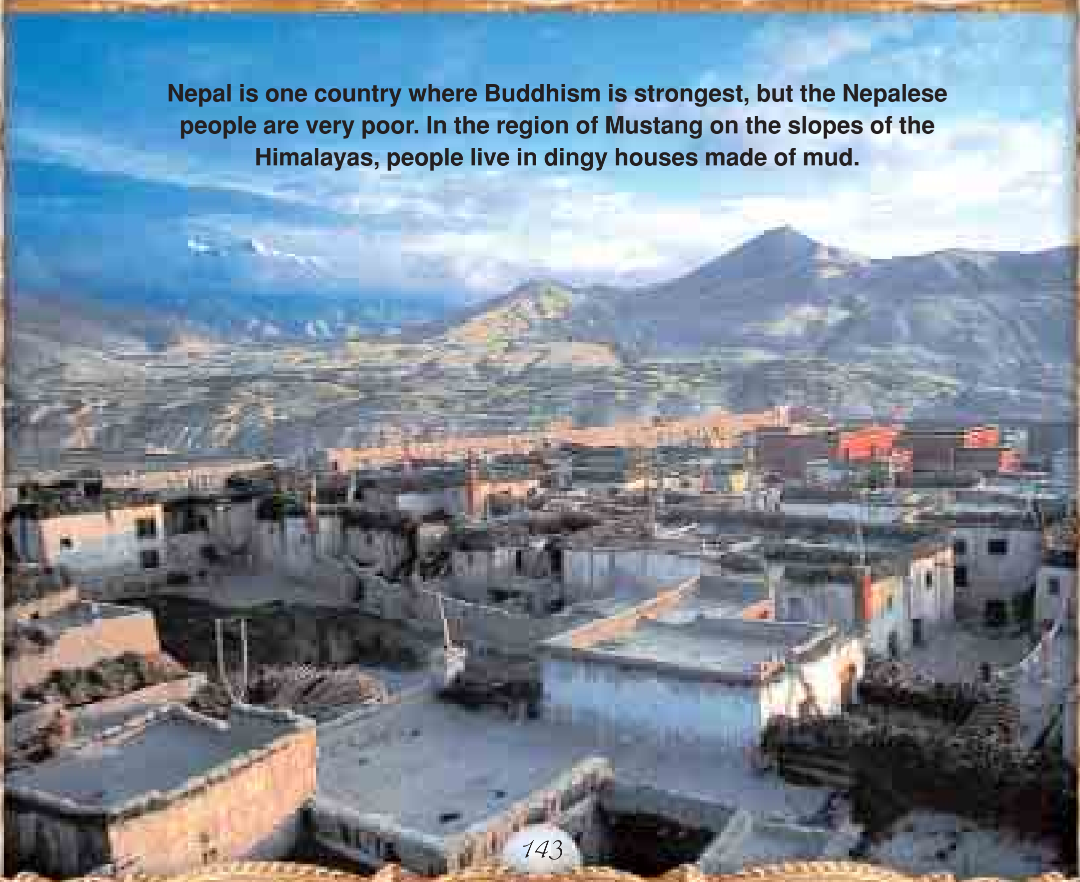
"They worship, instead of God, what can nelther harm them nor help them, saying, 'These are our intercessors with God.' "
(Qur'an 10: 18)





In some quarters, Buddhism is seen as a path of high morality, mutual support and self-sacrifice. But the fact that people are living in destitution in Buddhist countries like Nepal, Tibet and Cambodia shows clearly that this mutual support and self-sacrifice is not a reality.





Nepal is one country where Buddhism is strongest, but the Nepalese people are very poor. In the region of Mustang on the slopes of the Himalayas, people live in dingy houses made of mud.

BUDDHISM AND MATERIALIST WESTERN CULTURE

One reason why Buddhism has come to the world's attention is not because of its existence in the Far East—its traditional home—but thanks to propaganda spread in the West. The beginning of this propaganda goes back as far as the 19th century and attracted more interest in the second half of the 20th century when it became a fad for those looking to be more "original."

The beginning of this fad dates from the pop-culture of the 1960's when a large number of western youth and some western intellectuals turned away from traditional Christianity looking for something else and found what they were seeking in far-eastern religions. The main impetus for this search was the desire to attract interest by going against the established order. When the late George Harrison of the Beatles, who helped define the pop culture of the '60s, stated that he had become a Hindu (a pagan religion that preceded Buddhism) and later recorded his own composition, "My Sweet Lord," a song to Krishna, many Beatles' fans followed suit. John Lennon used Buddhist mantras in his song entitled "Across the Universe."

Buddhist hymns, styles of dress, and artworks were very popular among hippies in the '60s and '70s.

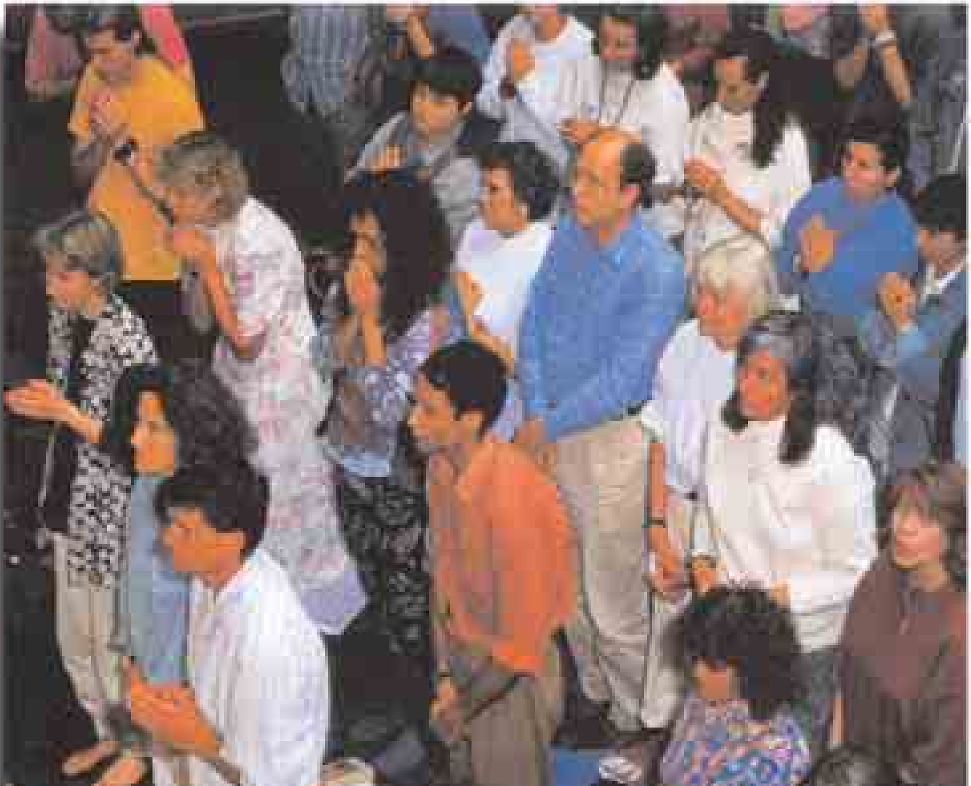
Interestingly, the most important architects of popular cultural expressions are imposing Buddhism on Western society. In this process, Hollywood has taken the lead. It's generally accepted that Hollywood reflects the ideas of American society's liberal wing, often supporting anti-religious ideas and values contrary to Christian morality and belief. For example, most films strongly impose the theory of evolution on the minds of viewers. In the evolution-versus-creation argument, "scientific" films are almost always come down on the side of Darwinism. (Hollywood's anti-religious, pro-Darwin propaganda began with the famous film, *Inherit the Wind*.) And the tendency of today's films to disparage Islam is a highly evident strategy.

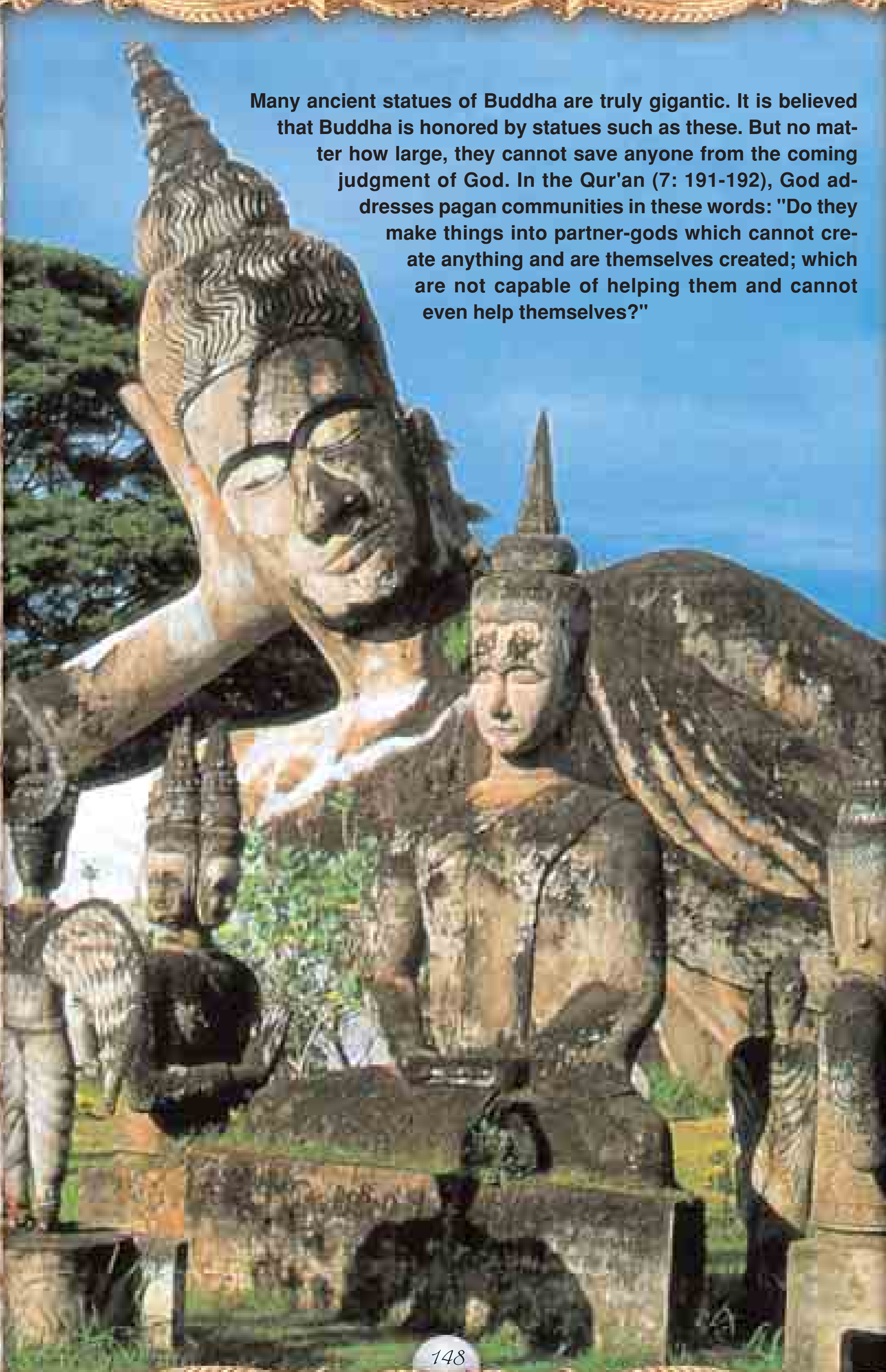
But though Hollywood is generally unfavorable towards revealed religions like Christianity and Islam; when it comes to Buddhism, it takes a totally opposite line, depicting this religion in a most attractive light as peaceable and humane. Films like *Seven Years in Tibet*, starring Brad Pitt, and *Kundun*, about the life of the Dalai Lama, directed by Martin Scorcese, have undertaken to popularizing Buddhism among the movie-going masses.

For spreading Buddhist propaganda, the private lives of actors and actresses are as important as the films they star in. The Supreme Head of the Nyingma School of Tibetan Buddhism has declared Steven Seagal, well-known for his roles in action films, to be the reincarnation of a 15th century lama (a Buddhist monk of Tibet or Mongolia)! Famous actor Richard Gere, in addition to writing books promoting Buddhism, has founded the Tibet House in New York with Richard Thurman, father of actress Uma Thurman. Other well-known Buddhists include Tina Turner, Harrison Ford, Oliver Stone, Herbie Hancock and Courtney Love.

Of course, a person's private life and personal beliefs concern no one else. People are free to choose any religion they wish. But if these individuals learned about true Islam, certainly their hearts would be warmed. But the picture presented so far brings us to an important conclusion: Buddhism is attracting interest, being adopted and promoted in the West wherever a materialist culture predominates. Materialism Western culture has become alienated from the Judeo-Christian basis of its own spirituality.

"If you call on them, they will not hear your call, and were they to hear, they would not respond to you. On the Day of Rising, they will reject your making associates of them. No one can inform you like One Who is All-aware." (Qur'an, 35: 14)





Many ancient statues of Buddha are truly gigantic. It is believed that Buddha is honored by statues such as these. But no matter how large, they cannot save anyone from the coming judgment of God. In the Qur'an (7: 191-192), God addresses pagan communities in these words: "Do they make things into partner-gods which cannot create anything and are themselves created; which are not capable of helping them and cannot even help themselves?"

But why? To answer this question, we must first determine the basic characteristics of Western materialism. This culture's foundations were laid in the 18th century; its theoretical framework was established in the 19th and—despite the gradual erosion of the theoretical framework—it became a mass movement in the 20th. Essentially, it:

- denies the existence of God and believes the universe to be the result of chance.

- believes that living things arrived at their present state through evolution, and that Darwinism explains the phenomenon of life and the "origin" of species.

- believes that human beings are simply a higher species of animal and downplays the existence of any human spirit.

- rejects the idea of life after death, resurrection, Judgment Day and the existence of an eternal Paradise and Hell.

These assumptions of a materialist culture, every one of them false, naturally contradict all revealed religions. But significantly, all these erroneous assumptions are shared by another culture—Buddhism.

Huxley's Discovery of Buddhism

An atheist religion, Buddhism doesn't accept the existence of God, an everlasting hereafter, Paradise, or Hell. It supposes that the human spirit is no different from that of an animal and believes in continual karmic returns to the natural world. According to Buddhists, a fish could come back as a mammal in a later life, and a human could come back as a worm. This idea of the "transmigration of souls" between species has important parallels with Darwin's theory of evolution.

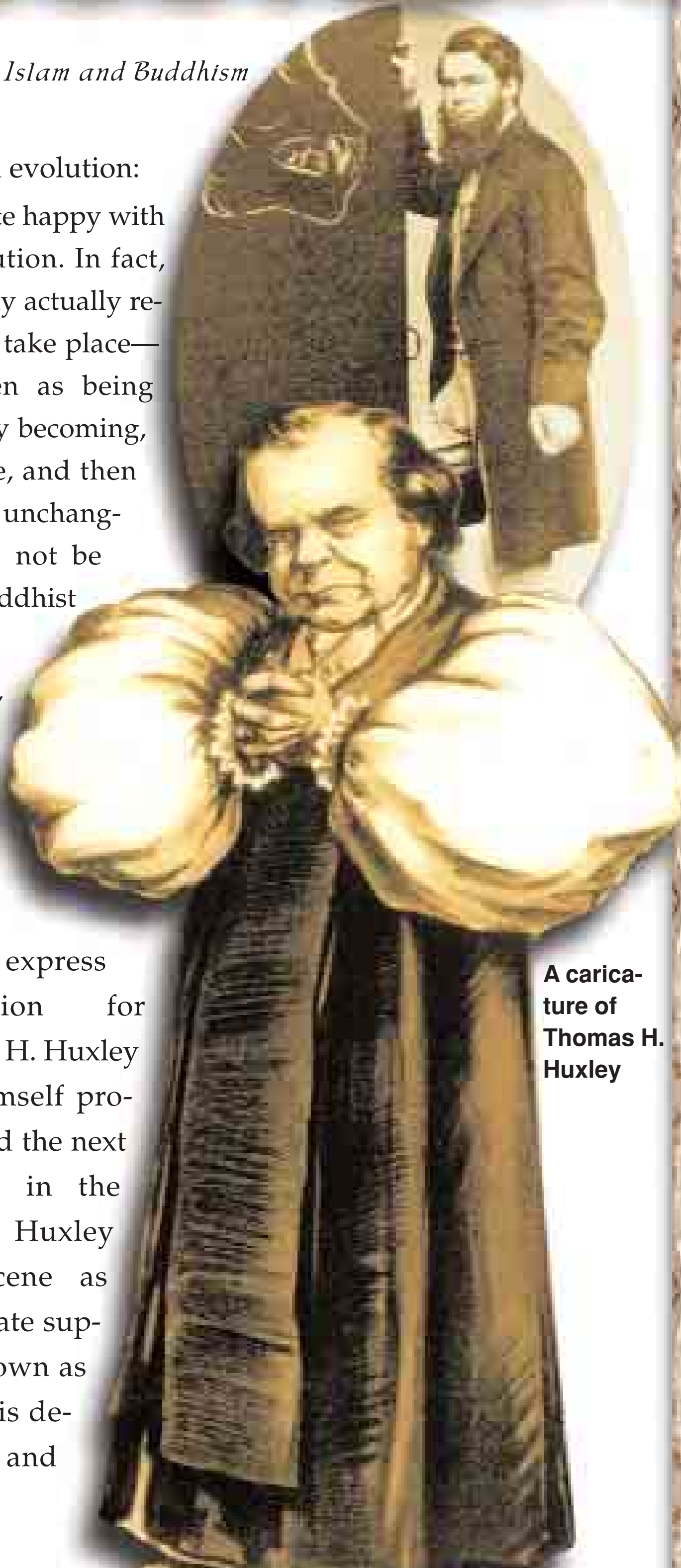
One Buddhist researcher has described as follows the relation

between Buddhism and evolution:

> Buddhism. . . is quite happy with the theory of evolution. In fact, Buddhist philosophy actually requires evolution to take place—all things are seen as being transient, constantly becoming, existing for a while, and then fading. The idea of unchanging species would not be compatible with Buddhist ontology.[6]

For this reason, Darwinists have felt sympathetic toward Buddhism and promoted it ever since the 19th century.

The first to express Darwinist admiration for Buddhism was Thomas H. Huxley who, after Darwin himself proposed his theory, played the next most important role in the spread of Darwinism. Huxley appeared on the scene as Darwin's most passionate supporter and became known as "Darwin's bulldog." His debates with scientists and



A caricature of Thomas H. Huxley

clergy defending the idea of creation, and the passion of his writings and speeches have made him the 19th century's most famous Darwinist.

One little-known fact about Huxley was his keen interest in Buddhism. Even while struggling with representatives of revealed religions like Judaism and Christianity, he regarded Buddhism as appropriate to the kind of secular civilization that he wanted to see established in the West. This is elaborated in the *Philosophy East and West* article, "Buddhism in Huxley's Evolution and Ethics," which includes the following description of Buddhism from Huxley's book of that name:

> [Buddhism is] a system which knows no God in the Western sense; which denies a soul to man; which counts the belief in immortality a blunder and hope of it a sin; which refuses any efficacy to prayer and sacrifice; which bids men look to nothing but their own efforts-for salvation . . . . yet [it] spread over a considerable moiety of the Old World with marvelous rapidity and is still, with whatever base admixture of foreign superstitions, the dominant creed of a large fraction of mankind.[7]

The only reason for Huxley's admiration of Buddhism is that it—like Huxley and other Darwinists—did not believe in God.

According to Vijitha Rajapakse, a professor at Hawaii University and the author of "Buddhism in Huxley's Evolution and Ethics," Huxley saw a parallel between Buddhism and the atheistic pagan ideas of ancient Greece. This contributed to his admiration:

> Huxley's evident tendency to link Buddhist thought with Western ideas, which comes to the fore strikingly in his comments on the concept of substance, was further exemplified at other levels of his discussion as well. He found the nontheistic stance taken by the early Buddhists to be analogous to the outlook of Heracleitus and

> referred, in addition, to "many parallelisms of Stoicism and Buddhism.". . .[8]

Rajapakse notes that some other 18th and 19th century atheists or agnostics were also great admirers of Buddhism. Parallels between Buddhism and the materialist Western philosophy of the time form part of the thought of David Hume, an 18th century Scottish philosopher and atheist with an antipathy towards religion. Rajapakse writes, "Interestingly enough, the parallelisms that exist between Buddhist and Humean standpoints on the question of a substantial soul were duly noted by certain early commentators on Buddhism" and continues:

> Mrs. Rhys Davids [a pioneer translator of early Buddhist texts from Paali into English], for example, remarked that "with regard to the belief in an indwelling spirit or ego, permanent, unchanging, unsuffering, Buddhism took the standpoint two thousand, four hundred years ago of our own Hume of two centuries ago."[9]



David Hume

As Rajapakse maintains in his article, Buddhism intrigued many thinkers in Victorian England because they found it in harmony with the ascendant philosophies of the 19th century—atheism and Darwinism. Friedrich Nietzsche, the famous German philosopher, looked with favor on Buddhism for the same reason.

Nietzsche's Sympathy for Buddhism

Nietzsche, one of the 19th century's most avid atheist thinkers, nurtured a passion-

ate hatred for Christianity and promoted in its stead a pagan culture and morality. His views helped form fascism in the 20th century, especially Nazism. Nietzsche battled with Christianity for espousing the virtues of compassion, mercy, humility and trust in God. Therefore, in fact, he was also against the moral principles of Islam and genuine Judaism. He hated revealed religions not only because of their moral principles, but mainly because of his fanatic atheism. In his article on Nietzsche, American researcher Jason DeBoer writes that "atheism is a crucial part of Nietzsche's thought," adding that:

> His is not an unbiased critique: Nietzsche burns with hatred toward Christianity, and his atheistic writings are extremely vitriolic.[10]

As we can imagine, Nietzsche directed his hatred at revealed religions only, not at pagan ones. On the contrary, as DeBoer writes:

> . . . Nietzsche, although one of the fiercest atheists in history, was in fact not entirely anti-religious . . . [He] respected and admired many of the aspects of other religions, including paganism and even Buddhism.[11]

In his review of Robert G. Morrison's book *Nietzche and Buddhism: A Study in Nihilism and Ironic Affinities*, English academic David R. Loy says the following on this matter:

> Comparing Nietzsche with Buddhism has become something of a cottage industry, and for good reason: there seems to be a deep resonance between them. Morrison points out that they share many common features: both emphasise the centrality of humans in a godless cosmos and neither looks to any external being or power for their respective solutions to the problem of existence . . . Both understand [a] human being as an ever-changing flux of multiple psychophysical forces, and within this flux there is no autonomous or unchanging subject ('ego', 'soul').[12]

The sources of these erroneous ideas that Nietzsche shared with

Buddhism were certainly nothing more than ignorance and arrogance. Anyone who looks at the universe and the world of nature with conscious intelligence can see clear proofs of God's existence. This has been supported by modern, scientific discoveries: the Big Bang theory and the Anthropic Principle (the principle that every detail in the universe has been carefully arranged to make human life possible) have crushed the idea of a godless universe as proposed by Nietzsche and other atheists. Science has clear proofs that the universe was created and ordered in an extraordinary balance. These proofs show the invalidity of Darwin's theory of evolution, but do support the existence of an intelligent design and prove the truth of creation. The results of scientific and sociological discoveries have also discredited the ideas of 19th century thinkers like Marx, Freud, and Durkheim. (For more information, please refer to Harun Yahya's article "A Turning Point in History: The Fall of Atheism" at www.harunyahya.com/70the_fall_of_atheism _scie34.php)



Friedrich Nietzsche, one of the 19th century's most avid atheists

Buddhism: False Spirituality to a Materialist Culture

Ironically, this scientific testimony against atheism is closely related to why Buddhism is spreading in the Western world. Architects

of atheism and materialist culture see that their theory is collapsing. To prevent the rapidly growing movement towards revealed religions, they counter it by promoting pagan faiths such as Buddhism. In other words, Buddhism—and other Far Eastern religions like it—are spiritual reinforcements of materialism.

But why should materialist Western culture need any such reinforcement? English writers Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh and Henry Lincoln have examined the development (and degeneration) of ideas in the Western world over the past 2,000 years. In the 20th century, they explain, the Western world has fallen into a "crisis of meaning." In other words, the way of life imposed on Western societies by materialist philosophy has stripped people's lives of meaning by cutting them off from their belief in God's existence and from worship of Him. These three authors put it this way:

> Life became increasingly bereft of meaning, devoid of significance — a wholly random phenomenon, lived for no particular purpose.[13]

Adding to this crisis of meaning, the collapse of materialist theories on a scientific level has opened the way for a new return to revealed religions, especially Islam. For this reason, the monotheistic faiths are growing in their numbers of adherents; the number of those who believe and practice their religion is increasing; and religious concepts and values are assuming much more important places in social life.

Buddhism and similar pagan beliefs are eager to curtail this movement by offering, to those confused by the crisis of meaning brought on by the materialist culture, a false route to salvation. Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism and versions of it like the Hare Krishna sect, Wicca and other New Age trends that bring together various pagan teachings, UFO religions that busy themselves with so-called holy messages believed to have come from space—these are all false

Buddhism and other pagan belief systems find increasing support in the Western world. After the rapid decline of materialism and atheism in today's world, many superstitious beliefs— particularly Buddhism—engage in much propaganda to stem the tide of a return to true religion. To understand these vain doctrines' real nature, one needs only think a little and put them through the sieve of reason.



teachings embraced by those who do not want to break with atheist and materialist dogmas, while eagerly search for spirituality at the same time. Besides, many who become Buddhists are largely influenced by a desire to unwittingly and blindly imitate something they do not understand, simply to attract attention and pretent that they are, indeed, aware and sophisticated.

To understand why these doctrines are unfounded, we need only pass them through the sieve of logic. We have already examined the concept of karma, the foundation of several Far Eastern religions, and shown it to have no rational basis. (For a more detailed discussion, see Harun Yahya's *Islam and Karma*, Ta Ha Publishers, London, 2003) These religions do not believe in the existence of God, nor in an ultimate place of divine judgment for mankind. How, then, can they believe that every person will receive a reward for what he has done—in a subsequent life? Who will determine this? Those who revere "Extraterrestrials" also believe in similar nonsense. How can a person build a philosophy of life on UFOs, whose reality is quite debatable? Even if beings from outer space did exist, they too would, necessarily, have to have been created. But what is the guarantee that they could show humans the true path?

Those caught up in such superstitious ideas should think about these words of God from the Qur'an (56: 57): **"We created you, so why do you not confirm the truth?**" They should follow His way, as He has commanded:

> **This is My Path, and it is straight, so follow it. Do not follow other ways, or you will become cut off from His Way. That is what He instructs you to do, so that hopefully you may do your duty. (Qur'an, 6: 153)**

COULD BUDDHISM BE A TRUE RELIGION THAT'S BECOME DISTORTED?

Although up to this point we've examined Buddhism as superstitious and false, at the same time, we must say that it contains some positive moral principles. Buddhist scriptures warn people against stealing, encourages them to be helpful to one another and cleanse themselves of selfishness and worldly ambitions. All of this suggests that Buddhism possibly began as a religion founded on God's revelation, only to become corrupted over the course of time.

In the Qur'an, God tells us that to every nation, He sent messengers to deliver His warnings:

We have sent you [Muhammad] with the truth bringing good news and giving warning. There is no community to which a warner has not come. (Qur'an, 35: 24)

We sent a Messenger among every people saying: "Worship God and keep clear of all false gods." Among them were some whom God guided, but others received the misguidance they deserved… (Qur'an, 16: 36)

Elsewhere in the Qur'an, He affirms that, **"Every nation has a Messenger"** (10: 47) and **"every na-**

tion [is] summoned to its Book" (45: 28). These verses show us that God could certainly have sent a messenger to the Hindus; and one of them could have been Siddhartha Gautama. Buddhism resembles revealed religion in another one of its tenets: that throughout history, prophets have come to reveal the same truths to humanity, but after them, human followers have debased these religious truths. Indeed, after Gautama's death, his teaching may have lost its roots and become distorted in just this way, mixing with the religions and cultures of the countries to which it spread, and assimilating various local myths and superstitions. (But of course, only God knows the truth.)



Buddhists, or those who convert to Buddhism out of a desire to imitate or attract attention do not realize how deceived they are. Buddhism alienates them from all beauty and esthetical values and leads its followers into a realm of darkness and gloom.

In such case, doubtless the real biography of Siddhartha Gautama would be much different from the mythological stories about him that we know today. There exist conflicting versions of his life story—a clear sign that the reality may have been probably quite different from the "history" we are now familiar with. Some of the true moral principles that Buddhism promotes lead us to believe that it might have developed from an originally monotheistic religion. Western scholar J. M. Robertson explains the Buddhist belief of the "chain of prophets":

> [Buddhism] did not claim to be a new teaching. The tradition holds that it had been promulgated many times before—that Gotama *[sic]* was only one of a long series of Buddhas who arise at intervals and who all teach the same doctrine. The names of twenty-four of such Buddhas who appeared before Gotama have been recorded . . . It was held that after the death of each Buddha, his religion flourishes for a time and then decays. After it is forgotten, a new Buddha emerges and preaches the lost Dhamma, or Truth.[14]

All of this suggests that Buddhism could be one of the perverse, distorted beliefs that came to degenerate in the wake of the prophets. On the other hand, Buddhism's set, conservative structure reminds one of the classic distortions that can occur during the degeneration of the true religion.

In the Qur'an, God says that Christians and Jews have fallen into the same trap and have smothered their religions with useless minutiae and prohibitions. For example, erroneous ideas in Buddhism about withdrawing from the world and subjecting one's self to pain also arose in Christianity as it degenerated through the years. God speaks of this error in the Qur'an (57: 27):

> **Then We sent Our Messengers following in their footsteps and sent Jesus son of Mary after them, giving him the Gospel. We put compassion and mercy in the hearts of those who followed him. They invented monasticism—We did not prescribe it for them—purely out of desire to gain the pleasure of God, but even so, they did not observe it as it should have been observed. To those of them who believed, We gave their reward, but many of them are deviators.**

Buddhism may have been a true religion that was ruined after the development of a priesthood. It has certainly degenerated much more than Judaism or Christianity. However much these two reli-

gions have been distorted over the course of time, still they are devoted to God's revelations and found their faiths upon Him. Even if the essence of Buddhism actually comes from a true source, it has completely departed from that essence and become smothered in superstitious ritual, with only a few true moral principles left.

Buddhism resembles the monotheistic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam in another way: It, too, believes in the End Times and in one ultimate savior for humanity—Jews and Christians know him as the Messiah; and for Muslims, he is the Mahdi.

The End Times is the period immediately preceding the Last Day. Both the Qur'an and the sayings of the Prophet (may God bless him and grant him peace) contain a number of indications that in the End Times, Islamic morality will spread throughout the whole world. The Qur'an says that Jesus (peace be upon him) did not die, that he was not killed but was raised to the presence of God while he was still alive, and that he will come to earth again. The Prophet Muhammad (may God bless him and grant him peace) also announced the good news that Jesus will be sent to the world again, and in those End Times while he is here, the world will be filled with peace, justice, well-being, and prosperity. The Prophet's sayings reveal that the Mahdi will assist Jesus in his blessed work. (For a more detailed account, see Harun Yahya's *Jesus Will Return*, Ta-Ha Publishers, London, 2001.)

In the Prophet's sayings, the End Times are divided into two distinct periods. In the first, God will be openly denied; the number of people living according to the values of religion will be few; the cost of living and distress from material want will be great. There will be famines. People will suffer from natural disasters; injustice will be widespread, wars and conflicts will increase, and pitilessness and cruelty will dominate over love, mercy and compassion. Afterwards, humanity will be saved from the godless and irreligious philosophies that are the real source of all their anguish and turn to the values of re-


“We sent a Messenger
among every people saying:
‘Worship God and keep
clear of all false gods.’ ”
(Qur’an 16: 36)

ligion. As a result, conflict, injustice and cruelty will come to an end. Instead of anxiety and repression, humanity will live in comfort, peace, security and prosperity. The whole world will be filled with plenty and abundance.

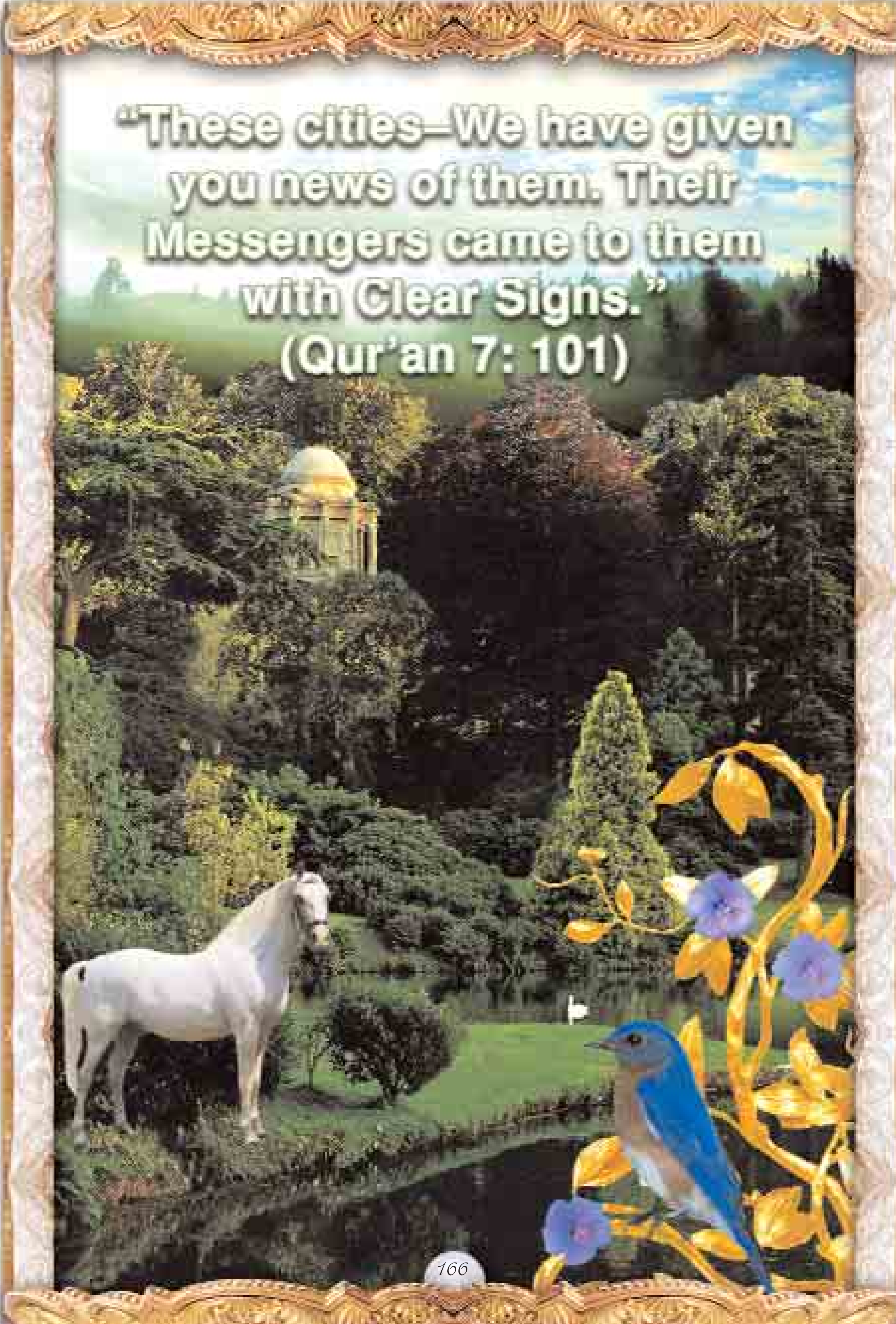
In Islam, as well as in Judaism and Christianity, there is the belief in the Mahdi, the Messiah, and the End Times. The Bible—made up of the Old Testament (the Torah and other Jewish writings) and the New Testament (the four gospels and other books and letters)—offers several descriptions of the end times. The gospels especially deal with the coming of Jesus (peace be upon him) and show important parallels with what is written in the Qur'an and in the sayings of the Prophet (may God bless him and grant him peace).



Although the name of Jesus does not occur in the Old Testament, of course, the Hebrew Bible does foretell a Messiah as a savior from the lineage of David (peace be upon him). And in some places in the Old Testament there are mentions of what will happen at the Time of the End. The Messiah, whose coming is promised and about whose deeds are spoken of in the Old Testament, is—as in the Qur'an—Jesus. Apart from the title "Messiah," this person is called by other descriptions such as "king," "lord" and "most holy."[15]

The Old Testament speaks of the Messiah's coming, and much is said about the kingdom he will found on earth. Some of the essential things said about him are that he will gather the nations under his rule, that he is of the lineage of David (peace be upon him) and that he




"These cities–We have given you news of them. Their Messengers came to them with Clear Signs."
(Qur'an 7: 101)

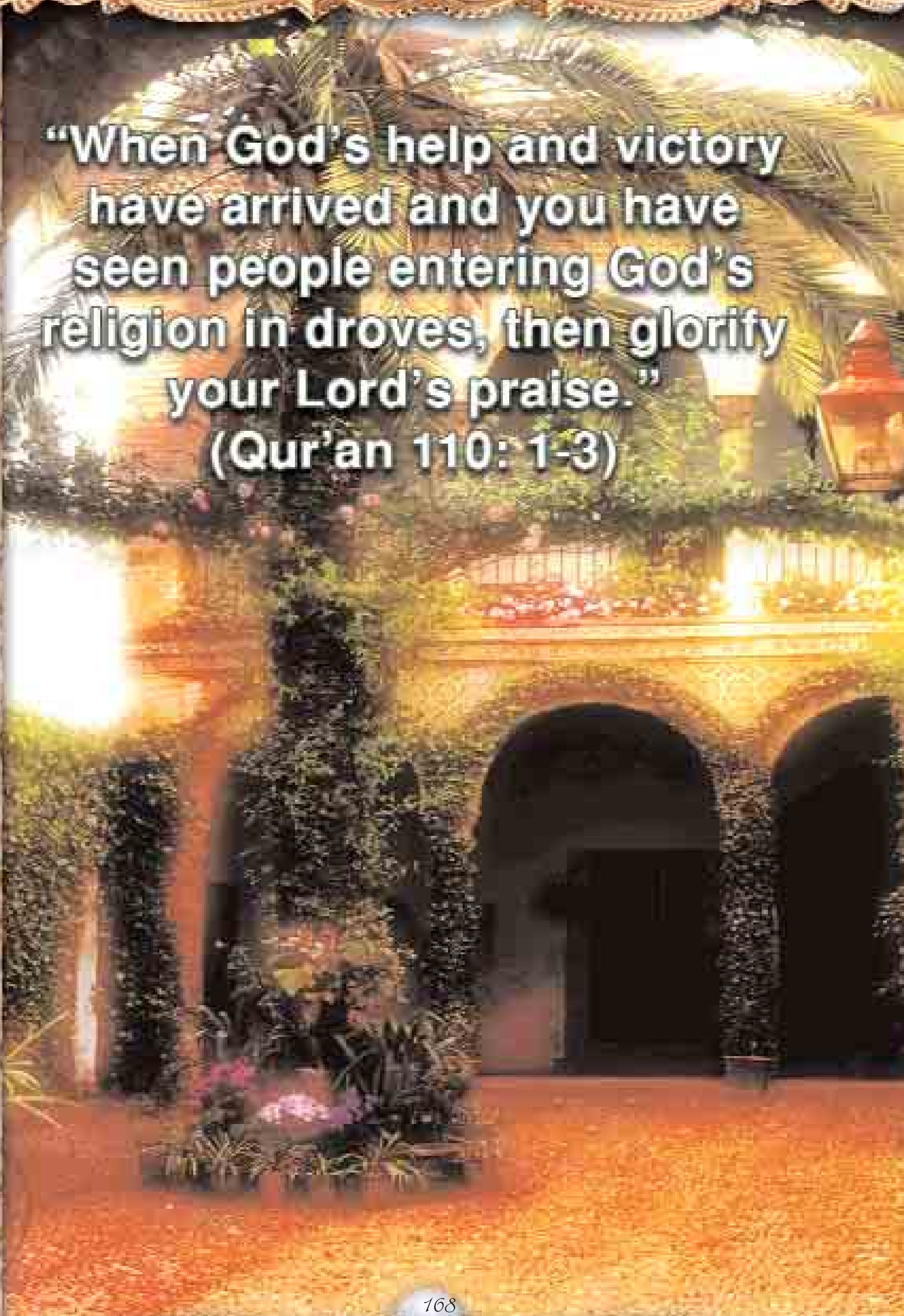
resembles his ancestor, David (who in his own time, established his dominion everywhere he went). Some of these relevant passages from the Old Testament are as follows:

> The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken in pieces; From heaven He will thunder against them. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth. He will give strength to His king, and exalt the horn of His anointed. (1 Samuel 2: 10)

> And in the days of these kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. (Daniel 2: 44)

> Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. He will not cry out, nor raise his voice, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.





“When God’s help and victory have arrived and you have seen people entering God’s religion in droves, then glorify your Lord’s praise.”
(Qur’an 110: 1-3)

A bruised reed he will not break, and smoking flax he will not quench; he will bring forth justice for truth. He will not fail nor be discouraged, till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands shall wait for his law . . . I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness, and will hold your hand; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house. (Isaiah 42: 1-7)

But with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his loins . . . (Isaiah 11: 4-5)

The New Testament gives much information about the Second Coming of Jesus to the world:

I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14: 2-3)

This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw him go into heaven. (Acts 1: 11)

Therefore if they say to you, "Look, he is in the desert!' do not go out; or "Look, He is in the inner rooms!" do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. (Matthew 24: 26-27)

I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus. . . that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, The King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen. (1 Timothy 6: 13-16)

The kingdom that will come into being with the second coming

of Jesus will be a period of justice, wealth and high morality:

> Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (Matthew 5: 5)

> In this manner, therefore, pray . . . "Your kingdom come . . . ." (Matthew 6: 9-10)

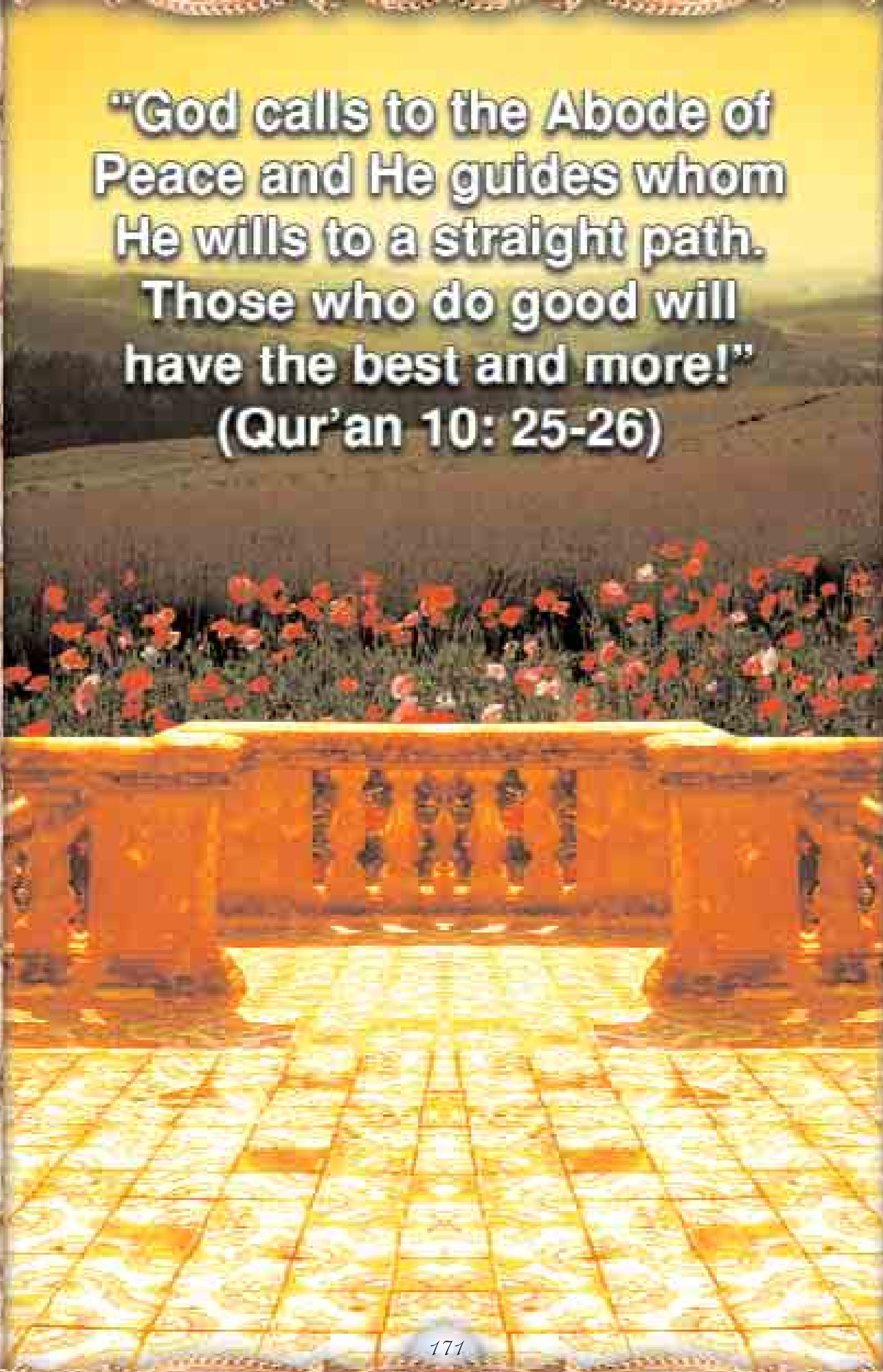
> There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last. (Luke 13: 28-30)

As we mentioned earlier, Buddhism also foretells and expects a savior-messiah. Buddha said that 1000 years after him, the Metteya (or Maitreya) would come and bring divine mercy to the whole universe; and with his coming, religion would reach its completion. The following are some examples of this expectation from Buddhist writings from two different countries. First Burma:

> Buddha said: "Our cycle is a happy one, three leaders have already lived . . . The Buddha supreme am I, but after me, Maitriya comes. While still this happy cycle lasts, before its tale of years shall lapse. This Buddha, called Metteya, shall be supreme chief of all Men."[16]

Now, from Sri Lanka:

> I am not the first Buddha [awakened one] who has come upon the Earth, nor will I be the last. In due time another Buddha will rise in the world, a Holy One, a supreme enlightened one, endowed with auspicious wisdom embracing the Universe, an incomparable leader of men. . . He will reveal to you the same eternal truths, which I have taught you. He will establish his Law [religion] . . . He will proclaim a righteous life wholly perfect and pure, such as I now proclaim. His disciples will number many thousands, while mine number many hundreds. He will be known as Maitreya.[17]


"God calls to the Abode of
Peace and He guides whom
He wills to a straight path.
Those who do good will
have the best and more!"
(Qur'an 10: 25-26)

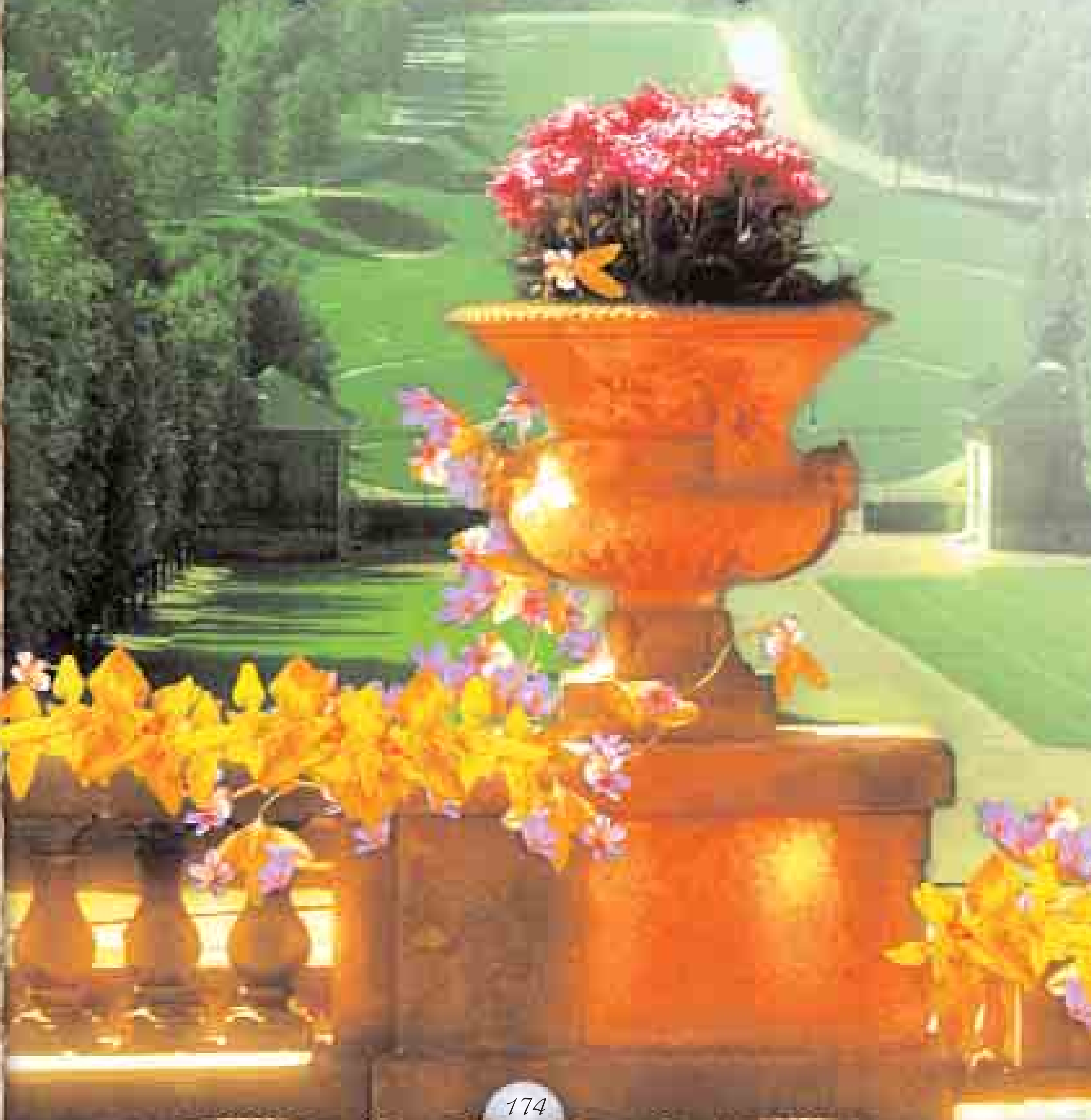
CONCLUSION: TRUTH HAS COME AND FALSEHOOD HAS VANISHED

In ages past, people worshipped statues made of wood and stone and beseeched them for help. They feared these statues, believing that they were watching them and would become angry whenever a person committed sin. Buddha is the Buddhist idol. But Buddhists who equate Buddha with God—and those who hop on the bandwagon and become Buddhists to draw attention to themselves—do not realize how seriously they are deceived. Because they do not believe in the eternal afterlife, Paradise or Hell, it never occurs to them that they will have an accounting in the presence of God. Since they believe that they are already on the right path, they react with great surprise when invited to follow it.

All of the messengers who warned against the pagan religions that people had followed and called others to the oneness of God encountered similar reactions. In the Qur'an (38: 4-7), God says:

They are surprised that a warner should come to them from among themselves. The unbelievers say, "This is a lying magician.

"Say: 'The Truth has come. Falsehood cannot originate or regenerate.' "
(Qur'an 34: 49)



Has he turned all the gods into One God? That is truly astonishing!" Their leaders went off saying, "Carry on as you are! Hold fast to your gods. This is clearly something planned. We have not heard of this in the old religion. This is merely something contrived."

In this book, we invite Buddhists and all others who, for whatever reason, feel sympathy with this superstitious religion to understand the truth that there is no god but God; and to accept that God is One and that there is no other. We invite them to come to Islam, the religion of Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon them all). A person who perceives all his ancestors as believing in a religion that associates other things with God—and who himself associates them with God—may find it hard at first to make this decision. He may not understand how, after giving up all those powers he once associated with God, he can worship Him alone. Be that as it may, the only One Who supports and feeds him at this moment; the only One watching over him and protecting him is God. The One Who gives him life and heals him when he is sick is God, Lord of all the Worlds, Who created this Earth according to a pre-ordained decree. As it says in the Qur'an (81: 29), human beings have submitted to the will of God, to the point where they have no power to will unless God wills, cannot act except by the will of God. As God says of Himself in the Qur'an (11: 56), **"There is no creature He does not hold by the forelock."**

Satan can show Buddhists, and everyone else, that it is impossible to escape associating others with God. However, this is simply an intimation that comes from Satan; the Qur'an (14: 22) announces that, on the Last Day, Satan will say, **"God made you a promise, a promise of truth, and I made you a promise, but broke my promise. I had no authority over you, except that I called you and you responded to me. Do not, therefore, blame me, but**



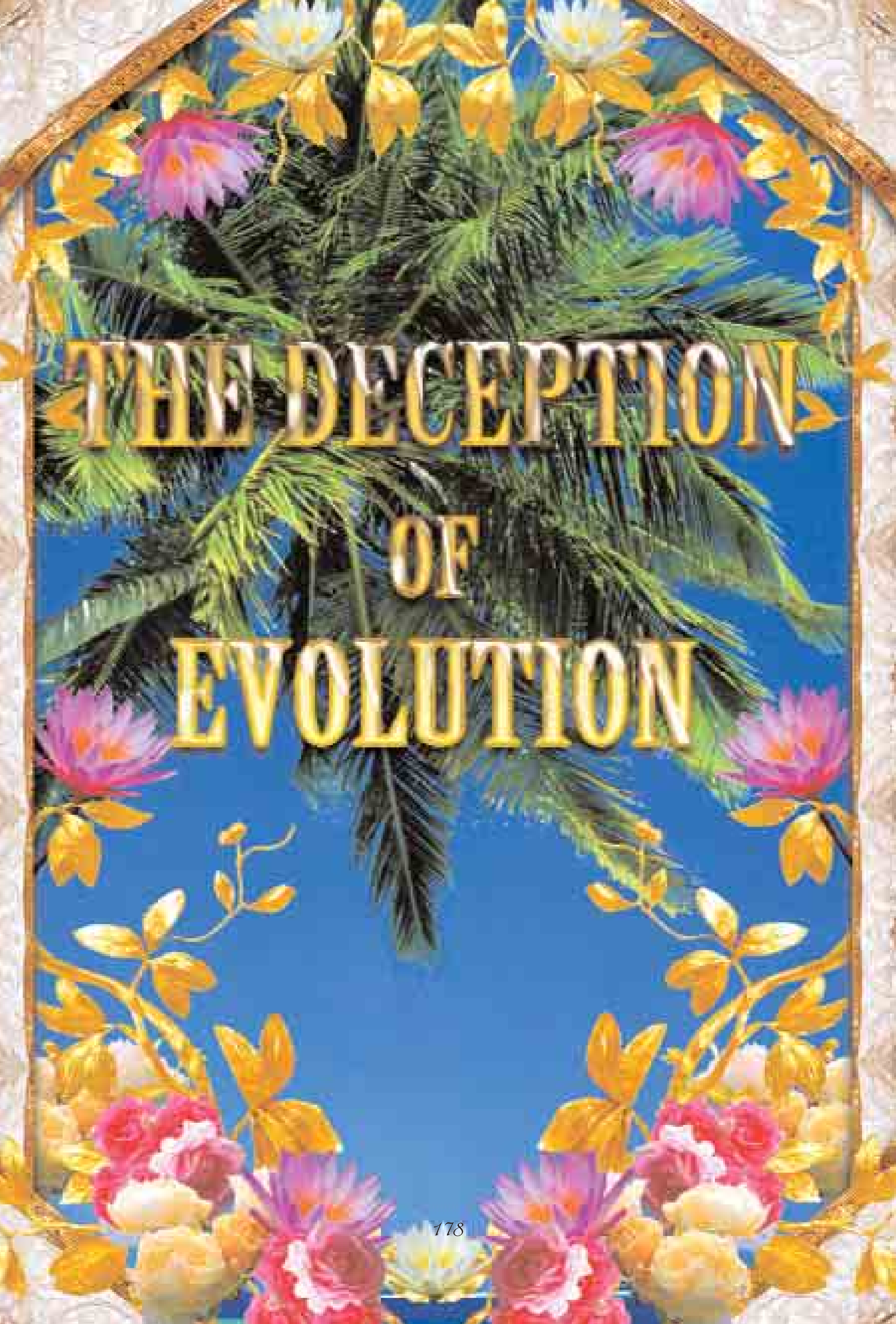
blame yourselves. I cannot come to your aid, nor you to mine. . . ." and all of those who have associated others with God will be left completely alone.

As we know, being saved from the error of associating other things of His creation with God entails a sincere change of intention, turning one's thinking to the oneness of God. And no matter what situation he finds himself in, that person decides to trust in God and conform his life faithfully to the Qur'an. Certainly, his faithfulness and decisiveness will bring about God's help, incomparable blessings, mercy and abundance. No doubt, God will direct a person on the right path, protecting him from Satan's attempts to misguide him.

Anyone who submits himself to God sees that real happiness and contentment can be found only in faith, and in the belief in God's oneness. In the Qur'an (65: 2-3), God gives this good news to believers:

> **Whoever heeds God—He will give him a way out and provide for him from where he does not expect. Whoever puts his trust in God—He will be enough for him. God always achieves His aim...**

For this reason, a person who repents of his error of associating other things with God should abandon his idols without a moment's hesitation. Those who believe that Buddha is a god (God is surely beyond that!) who sees and hears all things, gives strength, gets angry and forebears, must change their minds and abandon their perverse understanding. And those who are caught up in the unfounded idea of karma and reject the existence the everlasting afterlife, must use their intelligence to save themselves from this error, because **"What these people are doing is destined for destruction. What they are doing is purposeless."** (Qur'an, 7: 139)



THE DECEPTION OF EVOLUTION

In the present day, there are people who live in a manner far removed from God, and who even reject faith and deny the existence of God for their own ends. On account of their blindness and mindless fearlessness, they try to influence others and turn them away from God. They have put forward a whole range of inconsistent ideas and twisted ideologies by which to do this. One of these is the theory of evolution.

The Ideological Collapse Of Darwinism

The aspect of Darwinism that stops it from being a claim of interest only to the scientific world and makes it of great importance to society as a whole is its ideological dimension. The answer it gives to the question of how living things, including mankind, came into existence makes Darwinism the basis of a number of philosophies, worldviews and political ideologies.

Here, we shall consider the relationship between Darwinism and materialist philosophy. Materialist philosophy, or "material-

ism," is a system of thought going as far back as ancient Greece. Materialism rests on the assumption that matter is the only thing that exists. According to materialist philosophy, matter has always existed, and will continue to do so for all time. Again according to this philosophy, nothing exists beyond matter.

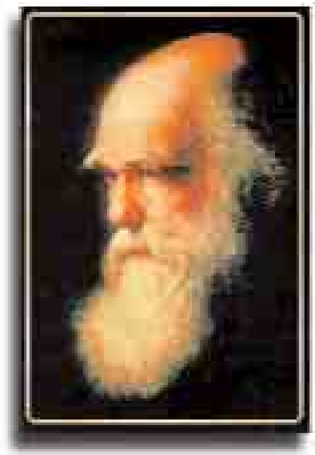
Naturally, materialism is also reflected in the political arena, with communism indisputably taking pride of place in this regard. Karl Marx (1818-83) and Friedrich Engels (1820-95), regarded as the founders of communism, were also the founders of dialectical materialism. In any case, communism is nothing more than materialist philosophy adapted to the social sciences by Marx and Engels.

Communism is today regarded as an ideology consigned to the wastes of history, whereas the fact is that it is still exceedingly influential. The destructive effects of this ideology can still be felt in many countries.

This is where Darwinism assumes great importance. Since Darwinism, or the theory of evolution, maintains that living things were not created but came into being by chance, it has received a wide acceptance among materialist ideologies, and has been adopted as the "basic foundation" of communism in particular. All the main communist ideologues have accepted the theory word for word, and have based their ideologies upon it.

In a letter to Friedrich Engels in 1860, for instance, Karl Marx said of Darwin's book that "This is the book which contains the basis in natural history for our view."[18] In another letter the following year, this time to Ferdinand Lassalle (1825-64), Marx said: "Darwin's book is very important and serves me as a basis in natural science for the class struggle in history."[19] Similarly Mao Tse Tung, the founder of Chinese communism, openly stated that "The foundations of Chinese socialism rest on Darwin and the theory of evolution."[20]

Thus the intellectual struggle against communism must be aimed at materialist philosophy and, therefore, the theory of evolution. It is also clear that the wide acceptance of the theory of evolution in society will further nourish materialism as well as communism.



Charles Darwin

The Scientific Collapse of Darwinism

Although this doctrine goes back as far as ancient Greece, the theory of evolution was advanced extensively in the nineteenth century. The most important development that made it the top topic of the world of science was Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, published in 1859. In this book, he denied that God created different living species on Earth separately, for he claimed that all living beings had a common ancestor and had diversified over time through small changes. Darwin's theory was not based on any concrete scientific finding; as he also accepted, it was just an "assumption." Moreover, as Darwin confessed in the long chapter of his book titled "Difficulties of the Theory," the theory failed in the face of many critical questions.

Darwin invested all of his hopes in new scientific discoveries, which he expected to solve these difficulties. However, contrary to his expectations, scientific findings expanded the dimensions of these difficulties. The defeat of Darwinism in the face of science can be reviewed under three basic topics:

1) The theory cannot explain how life originated on Earth.

2) No scientific finding shows that the "evolutionary mechanisms" proposed by the theory have any evolutionary power at all.

3) The fossil record proves the exact opposite of what the theory suggests.

In this section, we will examine these three basic points in general outlines:

The First Insurmountable Step: The Origin of Life

The theory of evolution posits that all living species evolved from a single living cell that emerged on the primitive Earth 3.8 billion years ago. How a single cell could generate millions of complex living species and, if such an evolution really occurred, why traces of it cannot be observed in the fossil record are some of the questions that the theory cannot answer. However, first and foremost, we need to ask: How did this "first cell" originate?

Since the theory of evolution denies creation and any kind of supernatural intervention, it maintains that the "first cell" originated coincidentally within the laws of nature, without any design, plan or arrangement. According to the theory, inanimate matter must have produced a living cell as a result of coincidences. Such a claim, however, is inconsistent with the most unassailable rules of biology.

"Life Comes from Life"

In his book, Darwin never referred to the origin of life. The primitive understanding of science in his time rested on the assumption that living beings had a very simple structure. Since medieval times, spontaneous generation, which asserts that non-living materials came together to form living organisms, had been widely accepted. It was commonly believed that insects came into being from food leftovers, and mice from wheat. Interesting experiments were conducted

to prove this theory. Some wheat was placed on a dirty piece of cloth, and it was believed that mice would originate from it after a while.

Similarly, maggots developing in rotting meat was assumed to be evidence of spontaneous generation. However, it was later understood that worms did not appear on meat spontaneously, but were carried there by flies in the form of larvae, invisible to the naked eye.

Even when Darwin wrote *The Origin of Species*, the belief that bacteria could come into existence from non-living matter was widely accepted in the world of science.

However, five years after the publication of Darwin's book, Louis Pasteur announced his results after long studies and experiments, that disproved spontaneous generation, a cornerstone of Darwin's theory. In his triumphal lecture at the Sorbonne in 1864, Pasteur said: *"Never will the doctrine of spontaneous generation recover from the mortal blow struck by this simple experiment."*[21]

For a long time, advocates of the theory of evolution resisted these findings. However, as the development of science unraveled the complex structure of the cell of a living being, the idea that life could come into being coincidentally faced an even greater impasse.



The French biologist Louis Pasteur

Inconclusive Efforts in the Twentieth Century

The first evolutionist who took up the subject of the origin of life in the twentieth century was the renowned Russian biologist Alexander Oparin. With various the-



The Russian biologist
Alexander Oparin

ses he advanced in the 1930s, he tried to prove that a living cell could originate by coincidence. These studies, however, were doomed to failure, and Oparin had to make the following confession:

Unfortunately, however, the problem of the origin of the cell is perhaps the most obscure point in the whole study of the evolution of organisms.[22]

Evolutionist followers of Oparin tried to carry out experiments to solve this problem. The best known experiment was carried out by the American chemist Stanley Miller in 1953. Combining the gases he alleged to have existed in the primordial Earth's atmosphere in an experiment set-up, and adding energy to the mixture, Miller synthesized several organic molecules (amino acids) present in the structure of proteins.

Barely a few years had passed before it was revealed that this experiment, which was then presented as an important step in the name of evolution, was invalid, for the atmosphere used in the experiment was very different from the real Earth conditions.[23]

After a long silence, Miller confessed that the atmosphere medium he used was unrealistic.[24]

All the evolutionists' efforts throughout the twentieth century to explain the origin of life ended in failure. The geochemist Jeffrey Bada, from the San Diego Scripps Institute accepts this fact in an article published in *Earth* magazine in 1998:

> Today as we leave the twentieth century, we still face the biggest unsolved problem that we had when we entered the twentieth century: How did life originate on Earth?[25]

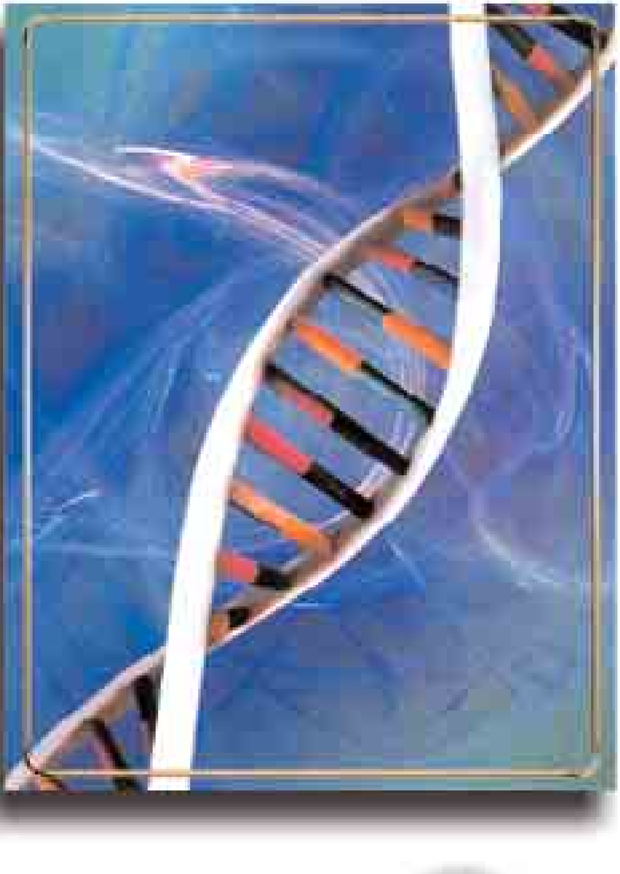


One of the evolutionists' gravest deceptions is the way they imagine that life could have emerged spontaneously on what they refer to as the primitive earth, represented in the picture above. They tried to prove these claims with such studies as the Miller experiment. Yet they again suffered defeat in the face of the scientific facts; The results obtained in the 1970s proved that the atmosphere on what they describe as the primitive earth was totally unsuited to life.

The Complex Structure of Life

The primary reason why the theory of evolution ended up in such a great impasse regarding the origin of life is that even those living organisms deemed to be the simplest have incredibly complex structures. The cell of a living thing is more complex than all of our man-made technological products. Today, even in the most developed laboratories of the world, a living cell cannot be produced by bringing organic chemicals together.

The conditions required for the formation of a cell are too great in quantity to be explained away by coincidences. The probability of proteins, the building blocks of a cell, being synthesized coinciden-



All information about living beings is stored in the DNA molecule. This incredibly efficient information storage method alone is a clear evidence that life did not come into being by chance, but has been purposely designed, or, better to say, marvellously created.

tally, is 1 in 10^{950} for an average protein made up of 500 amino acids. In mathematics, a probability smaller than 1 over 10^{50} is considered to be impossible in practical terms.

The DNA molecule, which is located in the nucleus of a cell and which stores genetic information, is an incredible databank. If the information coded in DNA were written down, it would make a giant library consisting of an estimated 900 volumes of encyclopedias consisting of 500 pages each.

A very interesting dilemma emerges at this point: DNA can replicate itself only with the help of some specialized proteins (enzymes). However, the synthesis of these enzymes can be realized only by the information coded in DNA. As they both depend on each other, they have to exist at the same time for replication. This brings the scenario that life originated by itself to a deadlock. Prof. Leslie Orgel, an evolutionist of repute from the University of San Diego, California, confesses this fact in the September 1994 issue of the *Scientific American* magazine:

> It is extremely improbable that proteins and nucleic acids, both of which are structurally complex, arose spontaneously in the same place at the same time. Yet it also seems impossible to have one without the other. And so, at first glance, one might have to conclude that life could never, in fact, have originated by chemical means.[26]

No doubt, if it is impossible for life to have originated from natural causes, then it has to be accepted that life was "created" in a supernatural way. This fact explicitly invalidates the theory of evolution, whose main purpose is to deny creation.

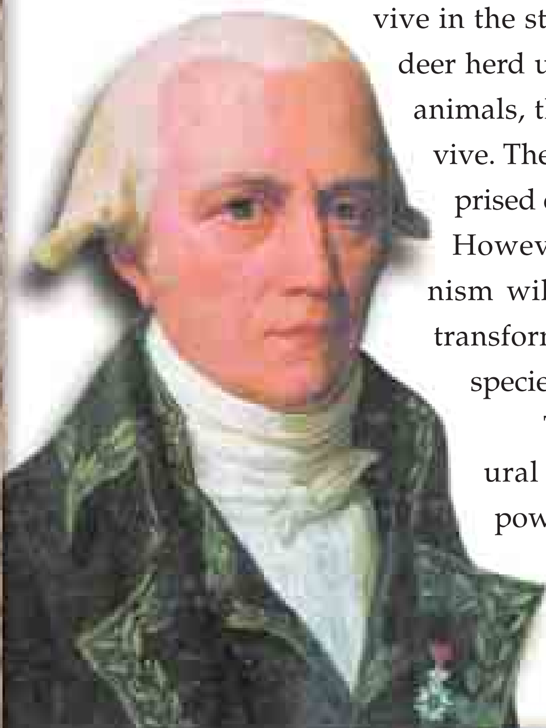
Imaginary Mechanisms of Evolution

The second important point that negates Darwin's theory is that

both concepts put forward by the theory as "evolutionary mechanisms" were understood to have, in reality, no evolutionary power.

Darwin based his evolution allegation entirely on the mechanism of "natural selection." The importance he placed on this mechanism was evident in the name of his book: *The Origin of Species, By Means of Natural Selection…*

Natural selection holds that those living things that are stronger and more suited to the natural conditions of their habitats will survive in the struggle for life. For example, in a deer herd under the threat of attack by wild animals, those that can run faster will survive. Therefore, the deer herd will be comprised of faster and stronger individuals. However, unquestionably, this mechanism will not cause deer to evolve and transform themselves into another living species, for instance, horses.



Therefore, the mechanism of natural selection has no evolutionary power. Darwin was also aware of this fact and had to state this in his book *The Origin of Species:*



Natural selection can do nothing until favourable individual differences or variations occur.[27]

Lamarck's Impact

So, how could these "favorable variations" occur? Darwin tried to answer this question from the standpoint of the primitive understanding of science at that time. According to the French biologist Chevalier de Lamarck (1744-1829), who lived before Darwin, living creatures passed on the traits they acquired during their lifetime to the next generation. He asserted that these traits, which accumulated from one generation to another, caused new species to be formed. For instance, he claimed that giraffes evolved from antelopes; as they struggled to eat the leaves of high trees, their necks were extended from generation to generation.

Darwin also gave similar examples. In his book *The Origin of Species,* for instance, he said that some bears going into water to find food transformed themselves into whales over time.[28]

However, the laws of inheritance discovered by Gregor Mendel (1822-84) and verified by the science of genetics, which flourished in the twentieth century, utterly demolished the legend that acquired traits were passed on to subsequent generations. Thus, natural selection fell out of favor as an evolutionary mechanism.

Neo-Darwinism and Mutations

In order to find a solution, Darwinists advanced the "Modern Synthetic Theory," or as it is more commonly known, Neo-Darwinism, at the end of the 1930's. Neo-Darwinism added mutations, which are distortions formed in the genes of living beings due to such external factors as radiation or replication errors, as the "cause

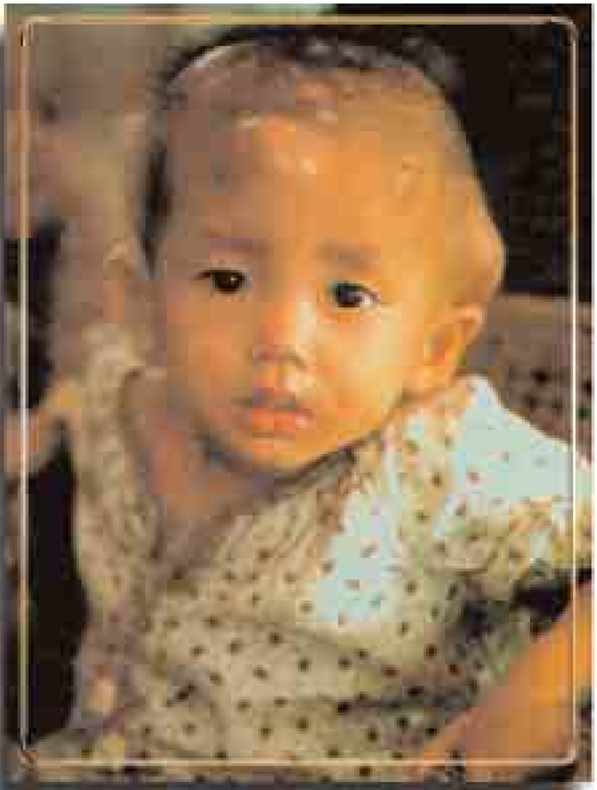
of favorable variations" in addition to natural mutation.

Today, the model that stands for evolution in the world is Neo-Darwinism. The theory maintains that millions of living beings formed as a result of a process whereby numerous complex organs of these organisms (e.g., ears, eyes, lungs, and wings) underwent "mutations," that is, genetic disorders. Yet, there is an outright scientific fact that totally undermines this theory: Mutations do not cause living beings to develop; on the contrary, they are always harmful.

The reason for this is very simple: DNA has a very complex structure, and random effects can only harm it. The American geneticist B.G. Ranganathan explains this as follows:

> First, genuine mutations are very rare in nature. Secondly, most mutations are harmful since they are random, rather than orderly changes in the structure of genes; any random change in a highly ordered system will be for the worse, not for the better. For example, if an earthquake were to shake a highly ordered structure such as a building, there would be a random change in the framework of the building which, in all probability, would not be an improvement.[29]

Not surprisingly, no mutation example, which is useful, that is, which is observed to develop the genetic code, has been observed so far. All mutations have proved to be harmful. It was understood that mutation, which is presented as an "evolutionary mechanism," is actually a genetic occurrence that harms living things, and leaves them disabled. (The most common effect of mutation on human beings is cancer.) Of course, a destructive mechanism cannot be an "evolutionary mechanism." Natural selection, on the other hand, "can do nothing by itself," as Darwin also accepted. This fact shows us that there is no "evolutionary mechanism" in nature. Since no evolutionary mechanism exists, no such any imaginary process called "evolution" could have taken place.



Mutations—breaks or replacements taking place in the DNA molecule—are the result of external effects such as radiation or chemical action. This mutated Vietnamese boy is a nuclear weapon victim.

The Fossil Record: No Sign of Intermediate Forms

The clearest evidence that the scenario suggested by the theory of evolution did not take place is the fossil record.

According to this theory, every living species has sprung from a predecessor. A previously existing species turned into something else over time and all species have come into being in this way. In other words, this transformation proceeds gradually over millions of years.

Had this been the case, numerous intermediary species should have existed and lived within this long transformation period.

For instance, some half-fish/half-reptiles should have lived in the past which had acquired some reptilian traits in addition to the



The 150-200-million-year-old fossil dragonfly (Jurassic-Recent age) is no different from specimens living today.

fish traits they already had. Or there should have existed some reptile-birds, which acquired some bird traits in addition to the reptilian traits they already had. Since these would be in a transitional phase, they should be disabled, defective, crippled living beings. Evolutionists refer to these imaginary creatures, which they believe to have lived in the past, as **"transitional forms."**

If such animals ever really existed, there should be millions and even billions of them in number and variety. More importantly, the remains of these strange creatures should be present in the fossil record. In *The Origin of Species,* Darwin explained:

> If my theory be true, numberless intermediate varieties, linking most closely all of the species of the same group together must assuredly have existed.... Consequently, evidence of their former existence could be found only amongst fossil remains.[30]

Darwin's Hopes Shattered

However, although evolutionists have been making strenuous efforts to find fossils since the middle of the nineteenth century all



The theory of evolution claims that living species gradually evolved from one another. The fossil record, however, explicitly falsifies this claim. For example, in the Cambrian Period, some 550 million years ago, tens of totally distinct living species emerged suddenly. These living beings depicted in the above picture have very complex structures. This fact, referred to as the "Cambrian Explosion" in scientific literature is plain evidence of creation.

over the world, no transitional forms have yet been uncovered. All of the fossils, contrary to the evolutionists' expectations, show that life appeared on Earth all of a sudden and fully-formed.

One famous British paleontologist, Derek V. Ager, admits this fact, even though he is an evolutionist:

> The point emerges that if we examine the fossil record in detail, whether at the level of orders or of species, we find – over and over again – not gradual evolution, but the sudden explosion of one group at the expense of another.[31]

This means that in the fossil record, all living species suddenly emerge as fully formed, without any intermediate forms in between. This is just the opposite of Darwin's assumptions. Also, this is very strong evidence that all living things are created. The only explanation of a living species emerging suddenly and complete in every detail without any evolutionary ancestor is that it was created. This fact is admitted also by the widely known evolutionist biologist Douglas Futuyma:

> Creation and evolution, between them, exhaust the possible explanations for the origin of living things. Organisms either appeared on the earth fully developed or they did not. If they did not, they must have developed from pre-existing species by some process of modification. If they did appear in a fully developed state, they must indeed have been created by some omnipotent intelligence.[32]

Fossils show that living beings emerged fully developed and in a perfect state on the earth. That means that **"the origin of species," contrary to Darwin's supposition, is not evolution, but creation.**

The Tale of Human Evolution

The subject most often brought up by advocates of the theory of evolution is the subject of the origin of man. The Darwinist claim holds that modern man evolved from ape-like creatures. During this alleged evolutionary process, which is supposed to have started 4-5 million years ago, some "transitional forms" between modern man and his ancestors are supposed to have existed. According to this completely imaginary scenario, four basic "categories" are listed:

1. *Australopithecus*
2. *Homo habilis*
3. *Homo erectus*
4. *Homo sapiens*

Evolutionists call man's so-called first ape-like ancestors *Australopithecus,* which means "South African ape." These living beings are actually nothing but an old ape species that has become extinct. Extensive research done on various *Australopithecus* specimens by two world famous anatomists from England and the USA, namely, Lord Solly Zuckerman and Prof. Charles Oxnard, shows that these apes belonged to an ordinary ape species that became extinct and bore no resemblance to humans.[33]

Evolutionists classify the next stage of human evolution as *"homo,"* that is "man." According to their claim, the living beings in the *Homo* series are more developed than *Australopithecus.* Evolutionists devise a fanciful evolution scheme by arranging different fossils of these creatures in a particular order. This scheme is imaginary because it has never been proved that there is an evolutionary relation between these different classes. Ernst Mayr, one of the twentieth century's most important evolutionists, contends in his book *One Long Argument* that "particularly historical [puzzles] such as the origin of life or of *Homo* sapiens, are extremely difficult and may

even resist a final, satisfying explanation."[34]

By outlining the link chain as *Australopithecus* > *Homo habilis* > *Homo erectus* > *Homo sapiens*, evolutionists imply that each of these species is one another's ancestor. However, recent findings of paleoanthropologists have revealed that *Australopithecus*, *Homo habilis*, and *Homo erectus* lived at different parts of the world at the same time.[35]

Moreover, a certain segment of humans classified as *Homo erectus* have lived up until very modern times. *Homo sapiens neandarthalensis* and *Homo sapiens sapiens* (modern man) co-existed in the same region.[36]

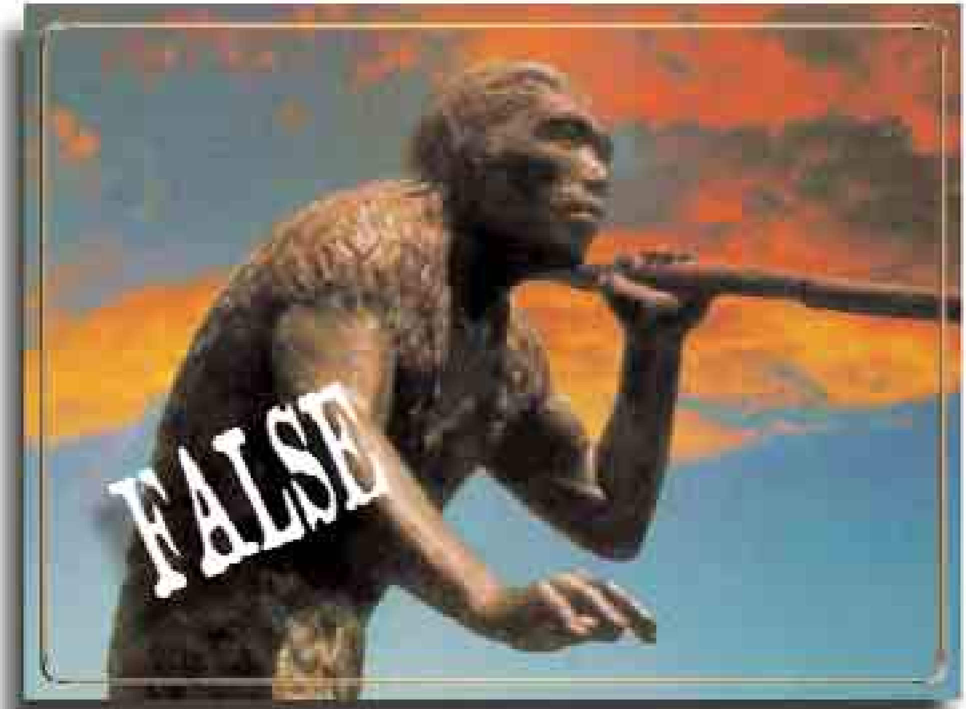
This situation apparently indicates the invalidity of the claim that they are ancestors of one another. A paleontologist from Harvard University, Stephen Jay Gould, explains this deadlock of the theory of evolution, although he is an evolutionist himself:

> What has become of our ladder if there are three coexisting lineages of hominids (A. africanus, the robust australopithecines, and H. habilis), none clearly derived from another? Moreover, none of the three display any evolutionary trends during their tenure on earth.[37]

Put briefly, the scenario of human evolution, which is "upheld" with the help of various drawings of some "half ape, half human" creatures appearing in the media and course books, that is, frankly, by means of propaganda, is nothing but a tale with no scientific foundation.

Lord Solly Zuckerman, one of the most famous and respected scientists in the U.K., who carried out research on this subject for years and studied *Australopithecus* fossils for 15 years, finally concluded, despite being an evolutionist himself, that there is, in fact, no such family tree branching out from ape-like creatures to man.

Zuckerman also made an interesting "spectrum of science" rang-



Imaginary representations of 'primitive' human beings are frequently employed in stories carried by pro-evolution newspapers and magazines. The only source for these stories, based on these imaginary representations, are the imaginations of their authors. Yet evolution has suffered such a defeat in the face of the scientific facts that fewer reports concerning evolution now appear in scientific magazines.

ing from those he considered scientific to those he considered unscientific. According to Zuckerman's spectrum, the most "scientific"—that is, depending on concrete data—fields of science are chemistry and physics. After them come the biological sciences and then the social sciences. At the far end of the spectrum, which is the part considered to be most "unscientific," are "extra-sensory perception"—concepts such as telepathy and sixth sense—and finally "human evolution." Zuckerman explains his reasoning:

We then move right off the register of objective truth into those

> fields of presumed biological science, like extrasensory perception or the interpretation of man's fossil history, where to the faithful [evolutionist] anything is possible – and where the ardent believer [in evolution] is sometimes able to believe several contradictory things at the same time.[38]

The tale of human evolution boils down to nothing but the prejudiced interpretations of some fossils unearthed by certain people, who blindly adhere to their theory.

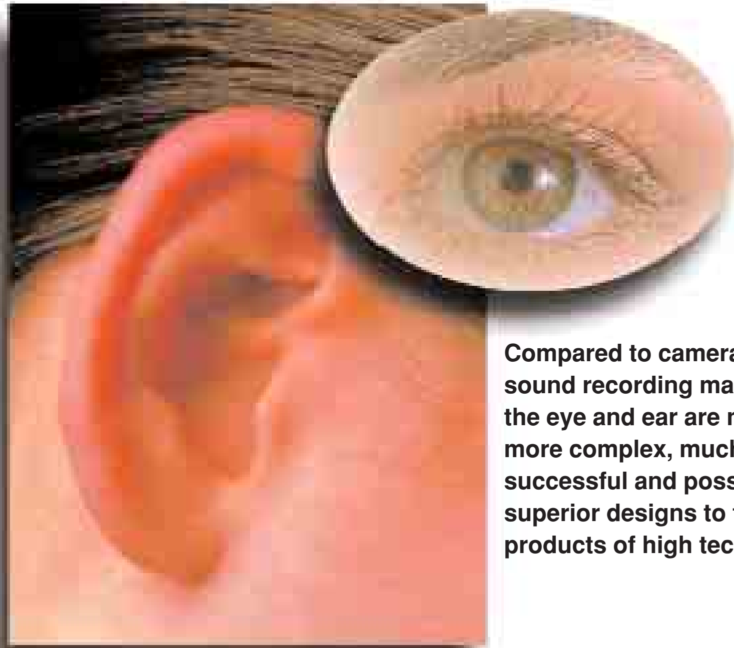
Technology in the Eye and the Ear

Another subject that remains unanswered by evolutionary theory is the excellent quality of perception in the eye and the ear.

Before passing on to the subject of the eye, let us briefly answer the question of how we see. Light rays coming from an object fall oppositely on the eye's retina. Here, these light rays are transmitted into electric signals by cells and reach a tiny spot at the back of the brain, the "center of vision." These electric signals are perceived in this center as an image after a series of processes. With this technical background, let us do some thinking.

The brain is insulated from light. That means that its inside is completely dark, and that no light reaches the place where it is located. Thus, the "center of vision" is never touched by light and may even be the darkest place you have ever known. However, you observe a luminous, bright world in this pitch darkness.

The image formed in the eye is so sharp and distinct that even the technology of the twentieth century has not been able to attain it. For instance, look at the book you are reading, your hands with which you are holding it, and then lift your head and look around you. Have you ever seen such a sharp and distinct image as this one at any other



Compared to cameras and sound recording machines, the eye and ear are much more complex, much more successful and possess far superior designs to these products of high technology.

place? Even the most developed television screen produced by the greatest television producer in the world cannot provide such a sharp image for you. This is a three-dimensional, colored, and extremely sharp image. For more than 100 years, thousands of engineers have been trying to achieve this sharpness. Factories, huge premises were established, much research has been done, plans and designs have been made for this purpose. Again, look at a TV screen and the book you hold in your hands. You will see that there is a big difference in sharpness and distinction. Moreover, the TV screen shows you a two-dimensional image, whereas with your eyes, you watch a three-dimensional perspective with depth.

For many years, tens of thousands of engineers have tried to make a three-dimensional TV and achieve the vision quality of the eye. Yes, they have made a three-dimensional television system, but it

is not possible to watch it without putting on special 3-D glasses; moreover, it is only an artificial three-dimension. The background is more blurred, the foreground appears like a paper setting. Never has it been possible to produce a sharp and distinct vision like that of the eye. In both the camera and the television, there is a loss of image quality.

Evolutionists claim that the mechanism producing this sharp and distinct image has been formed by chance. Now, if somebody told you that the television in your room was formed as a result of chance, that all of its atoms just happened to come together and make up this device that produces an image, what would you think? How can atoms do what thousands of people cannot?

If a device producing a more primitive image than the eye could not have been formed by chance, then it is very evident that the eye and the image seen by the eye could not have been formed by chance. The same situation applies to the ear. The outer ear picks up the available sounds by the auricle and directs them to the middle ear, the middle ear transmits the sound vibrations by intensifying them, and the inner ear sends these vibrations to the brain by translating them into electric signals. Just as with the eye, the act of hearing finalizes in the center of hearing in the brain.

The situation in the eye is also true for the ear. That is, the brain is insulated from sound just as it is from light. It does not let any sound in. Therefore, no matter how noisy is the outside, the inside of the brain is completely silent. Nevertheless, the sharpest sounds are perceived in the brain. In your completely silent brain, you listen to symphonies, and hear all of the noises in a crowded place. However, were the sound level in your brain was measured by a precise device at that moment, complete silence would be found to be prevailing there.

As is the case with imagery, decades of effort have been spent in

trying to generate and reproduce sound that is faithful to the original. The results of these efforts are sound recorders, high-fidelity systems, and systems for sensing sound. Despite all of this technology and the thousands of engineers and experts who have been working on this endeavor, no sound has yet been obtained that has the same sharpness and clarity as the sound perceived by the ear. Think of the highest-quality hi-fi systems produced by the largest company in the music industry. Even in these devices, when sound is recorded some of it is lost; or when you turn on a hi-fi you always hear a hissing sound before the music starts. However, the sounds that are the products of the human body's technology are extremely sharp and clear. A human ear never perceives a sound accompanied by a hissing sound or with atmospherics as does a hi-fi; rather, it perceives sound exactly as it is, sharp and clear. This is the way it has been since the creation of man.

So far, no man-made visual or recording apparatus has been as sensitive and successful in perceiving sensory data as are the eye and the ear. However, as far as seeing and hearing are concerned, a far greater truth lies beyond all this.

To Whom Does the Consciousness That Sees and Hears within the Brain Belong?

Who watches an alluring world in the brain, listens to symphonies and the twittering of birds, and smells the rose?

The stimulations coming from a person's eyes, ears, and nose travel to the brain as electro-chemical nerve impulses. In biology, physiology, and biochemistry books, you can find many details about how this image forms in the brain. However, you will never come across the most important fact: Who perceives these electro-chemical nerve impulses as images, sounds, odors, and sensory events in the



Someone who looks at a seal perceives it in his brain. Similarly, it is in his brain that he investigates and examines the features of that creature he sees in his brain. The things he learns reveal to him the prefection of God's creation and the superiority of His wisdom and knowledge.

brain? There is a consciousness in the brain that perceives all this without feeling any need for an eye, an ear, and a nose. To whom does this consciousness belong? Of course it does not belong to the nerves, the fat layer, and neurons comprising the brain. This is why Darwinist-materialists, who believe that everything is comprised of matter, cannot answer these questions.

For this consciousness is the spirit created by God, which needs neither the eye to watch the images nor the ear to hear the sounds. Furthermore, it does not need the brain to think.

Everyone who reads this explicit and scientific fact should ponder on Almighty God, and fear and seek refuge in Him, for He squeezes the entire universe in a pitch-dark place of a few cubic centimeters in a three-dimensional, colored, shadowy, and luminous form.

A Materialist Faith

The information we have presented so far shows us that the theory of evolution is a incompatible with scientific findings. The theory's claim regarding the origin of life is inconsistent with science, the evolutionary mechanisms it proposes have no evolutionary power, and fossils demonstrate that the required intermediate forms have never existed. So, it certainly follows that the theory of evolution should be pushed aside as an unscientific idea. This is how many ideas, such as the Earth-centered universe model, have been taken out of the agenda of science throughout history.

However, the theory of evolution is kept on the agenda of science. Some people even try to represent criticisms directed against it as an "attack on science." Why?

The reason is that this theory is an indispensable dogmatic belief for some circles. These circles are blindly devoted to materialist philosophy and adopt Darwinism because it is the only materialist explanation that can be put forward to explain the workings of nature.

Interestingly enough, they also confess this fact from time to time. A well-known geneticist and an outspoken evolutionist, Richard C. Lewontin from Harvard University, confesses that he is "first and foremost a materialist and then a scientist":

> It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, so we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.[39]

These are explicit statements that Darwinism is a dogma kept

alive just for the sake of adherence to materialism. This dogma maintains that there is no being save matter. Therefore, it argues that inanimate, unconscious matter created life. It insists that millions of different living species (e.g., birds, fish, giraffes, tigers, insects, trees, flowers, whales, and human beings) originated as a result of the interactions between matter such as pouring rain, lightning flashes, and so on, out of inanimate matter. This is a precept contrary both to reason and science. Yet Darwinists continue to defend it just so as "not to allow a Divine Foot in the door."

Anyone who does not look at the origin of living beings with a materialist prejudice will see this evident truth: All living beings are works of a Creator, Who is All-Powerful, All-Wise, and All-Knowing. This Creator is God, Who created the whole universe from non-existence, designed it in the most perfect form, and fashioned all living beings.

The Theory of Evolution is the Most Potent Spell in the World

Anyone free of prejudice and the influence of any particular ideology, who uses only his or her reason and logic, will clearly understand that belief in the theory of evolution, which brings to mind the superstitions of societies with no knowledge of science or civilization, is quite impossible.

As explained above, those who believe in the theory of evolution think that a few atoms and molecules thrown into a huge vat could produce thinking, reasoning professors and university students; such scientists as Einstein and Galileo; such artists as Humphrey Bogart, Frank Sinatra and Luciano Pavarotti; as well as antelopes, lemon trees, and carnations. Moreover, as the scientists and professors who believe in this nonsense are educated people, it is quite justifiable to

speak of this theory as "the most potent spell in history." Never before has any other belief or idea so taken away peoples' powers of reason, refused to allow them to think intelligently and logically and hidden the truth from them as if they had been blindfolded. This is an even worse and unbelievable blindness than the Egyptians worshipping the Sun God Ra, totem worship in some parts of Africa, the people of Saba worshipping the Sun, the tribe of Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him) worshipping idols they had made with their own hands, or the people of the Prophet Moses (peace be upon him) worshipping the Golden Calf.

In fact, God has pointed to this lack of reason in the Qur'an. In many verse, He reveals in many verses that some peoples' minds will be closed and that they will be powerless to see the truth. Some of these verses are as follows:

> **As for those who do not believe, it makes no difference to them whether you warn them or do not warn them, they will not believe. God has sealed up their hearts and hearing and over their eyes is a blindfold. They will have a terrible punishment. (Qur'an, 2: 6-7)**

> **... They have hearts with which they do not understand. They have eyes with which they do not see. They have ears with which they do not hear. Such people are like cattle. No, they are even further astray! They are the unaware. (Qur'an, 7: 179)**

> **Even if We opened up to them a door into heaven, and they spent the day ascending through it, they would only say: "Our eyesight is befuddled! Or rather we have been put under a spell!" (Qur'an, 15: 14-15)**

Words cannot express just how astonishing it is that this spell should hold such a wide community in thrall, keep people from the truth, and not be broken for 150 years. It is understandable that one or a few people might believe in impossible scenarios and claims full of stupidity and illogicality. However, "magic" is the only possible explanation for people from all over the world believing that uncon-

scious and lifeless atoms suddenly decided to come together and form a universe that functions with a flawless system of organization, discipline, reason, and consciousness; a planet named Earth with all of its features so perfectly suited to life; and living things full of countless complex systems.

In fact, the Qur'an relates the incident of Prophet Moses and Pharaoh to show that some people who support atheistic philosophies actually influence others by magic. When Pharaoh was told about the true religion, he told Prophet Moses to meet with his own magicians. When Moses did so, he told them to demonstrate their abilities first. The verses continue:

He said: "You throw." And when they threw, they cast a spell on the people's eyes and caused them to feel great fear of them. They produced an extremely powerful magic. (Qur'an, 7: 116)

As we have seen, Pharaoh's magicians were able to deceive everyone, apart from Moses and those who believed in him. However, his evidence broke the spell, or "swallowed up what they had forged," as the verse puts it.

We revealed to Moses, "Throw down your staff." And it immediately swallowed up what they had forged. So the Truth took place and what they did was shown to be false. (Qur'an, 7: 117-119)

As we can see, when people realized that a spell had been cast upon them and that what they saw was just an illusion, Pharaoh's magicians lost all credibility. In the present day too, unless those who, under the influence of a similar spell, believe in these ridiculous claims under their scientific disguise and spend their lives defending them, abandon their superstitious beliefs, they also will be humiliated when the full truth emerges and the spell is broken. In fact, Malcolm Muggeridge, an atheist philosopher and supporter of evolution, ad-

mitted he was worried by just that prospect:

> **I myself am convinced that the theory of evolution, especially the extent to which it's been applied, will be one of the great jokes in the history books in the future.** Posterity will marvel that so very flimsy and dubious an hypothesis could be accepted with the incredible credulity that it has.[40]

That future is not far off: On the contrary, people will soon see that "chance" is not a deity, and will look back on the theory of evolution as the worst deceit and the most terrible spell in the world. That spell is already rapidly beginning to be lifted from the shoulders of people all over the world. Many people who see its true face are wondering with amazement how they could ever have been taken in by it.

They said, "Glory be to You!
We have no knowledge except what You have taught us.
You are the All-Knowing, the All-Wise."
(Qur'an, 2:32)

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